



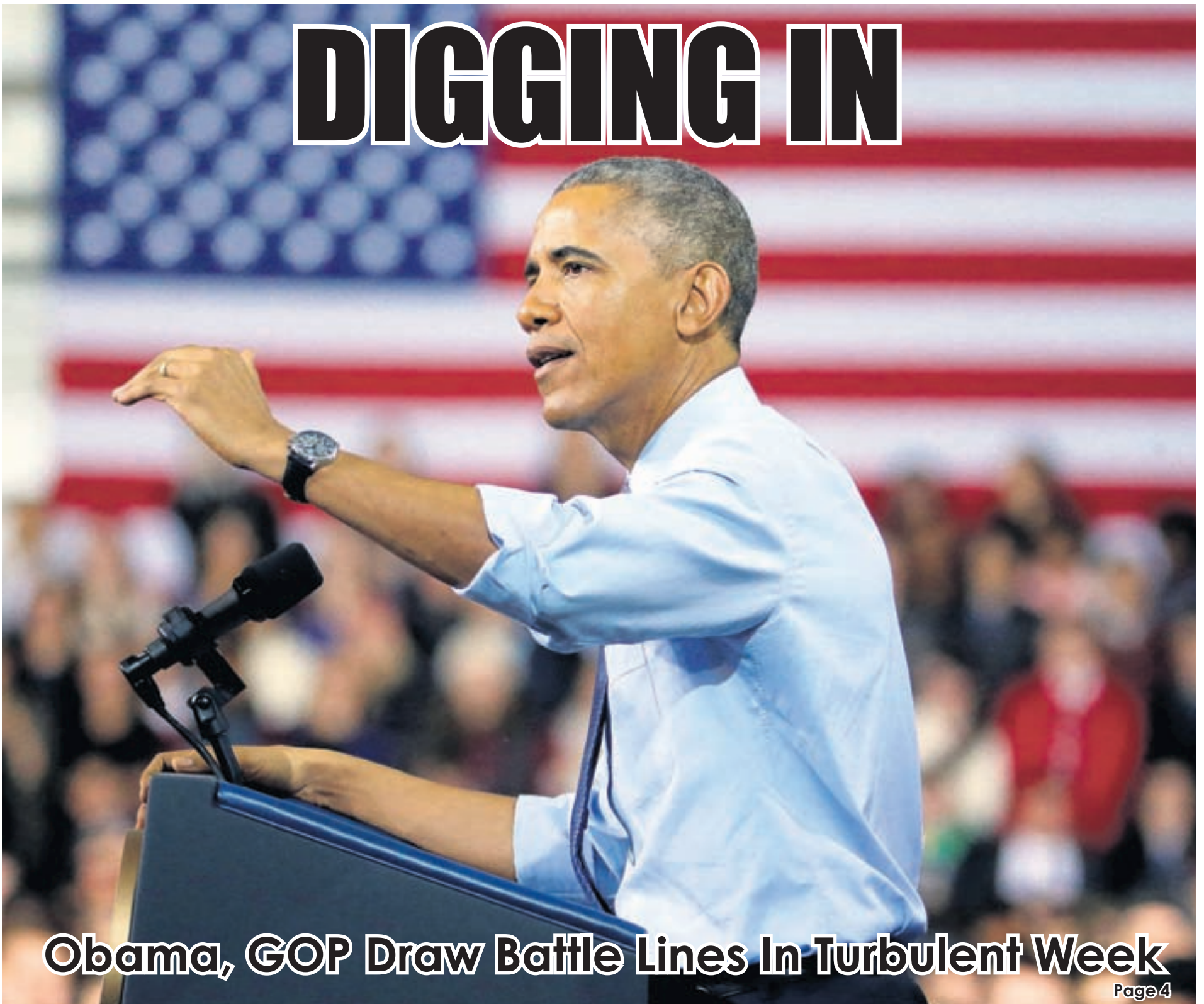
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Aruba **TODAY**

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Saturday, January 24, 2015



Obama, GOP Draw Battle Lines In Turbulent Week

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President Barack Obama speaks during a visit to the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. Obama wants to stay relevant until the end of his historic presidency, but the Republicans are in power in Congress, and are determined to show it.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

US Vice President Biden invites Aruba PM Eman to Energy Summit

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US, Cuba end historic first round of talks

**B. KLAPPER
M. WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — After a euphoric month that left Americans dreaming of holidays in Havana and Cubans imagining U.S. products at their corner stores, the first real effort at forging a new era was sobering: Much bitter disagreement still stands in the way of normal relations.

Negotiations between seasoned Cuban diplomats and the highest-level U.S. delegation to visit the island in 35 years failed to produce a single significant agreement — beyond the need for more talks. As Roberta Jacobson, America's top diplomat for Latin America, told reporters, "It's very hard to say how exactly this will work." The two days of discussions were hyped, starting hours after President Barack Obama declared in his State of the Union address that the new engagement effort had "the potential to end a legacy of mistrust in our hemisphere" and provided "new hope for the future in Cuba."

Yet by Friday it appeared negotiators hadn't even

On Thursday, Jacobson called re-establishing diplomatic relations a "relatively straightforward process." A day later, her Cuban counterpart suggested a central U.S. demand of unrestricted travel for U.S. diplomats was already being snarled in one of the most contentious points of the long-fraught U.S.-Cuban relationship — Washington's support for dissidents the Cuban government sees as mercenaries seeking to undermine the communist system. Josefina Vidal, Cuba's top diplomat for the United States, said in an interview with The Associated Press that U.S. support for dissidents is "action that isn't acceptable for Cuba, and they know it."

Asked whether Cuba would allow U.S. diplomats to go where they want, she said, "for Cuba, this consideration is associated with better behavior."

At its most fundamental level, the U.S.-Cuba divide comes down to separate visions of where closer ties should lead. Jacobson said the U.S. goal is a Cuba that is "free and democratic." Vidal outlined an entirely different idea — that of two

with Cuba," Vidal said. This disconnect surfaced several times this week. At one point, the U.S. and Cuba disagreed on whether human rights even had been discussed. When Cuban officials acknowledged the subject was broached, they stressed their desire to help ameliorate human rights problems in the U.S., from police killings of black men to Guantanamo Bay detentions. Jacobson on Friday reinforced the U.S. call for greater political freedom in Cuba, something Cuban-American leaders and rights advocates fear has been overshadowed in the push for detente. She met a group of dissidents in the morning and then spoke to influential Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez.

Human rights, Jacobson said, are the "center" of U.S. policy in Cuba. But she didn't say Cuba must improve its human rights record to have a better relationship with the U.S. Republican leaders in Congress take a different view and hold the power to end America's 54-year economic embargo of Cuba — the communist govern-



Combination of handout photos show US Vice President Joe Biden (left) and Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman (right).
(Handout Photos)

**Caribbean Energy Security Summit
in Washington, DC, January 25-26**

US Vice President Joe Biden invites Aruba PM Eman to Energy Summit

ORANJESTAD/WASHINGTON DC - U.S. Vice President Joe Biden invited Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Energy and Economic Affairs Mike De Meza to attend the Caribbean Energy Security Summit to be held on January 25 & 26, 2015.

In addition, the Vice President has asked Prime Minister Eman to speak and share Aruba's lessons on developing a comprehensive approach to energy transformation.

This important summit will host delegations from 16 Caribbean countries as well as another 20 delegations from leading players in the region; such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, CARICOM, Canada, EU, Spain, United Kingdom, and Colombia.

The summit begins on January 25 with an opening reception hosted by Secretary of State John F. Kerry. The following day, Prime Minister Eman and Minister De Meza will attend a breakfast meeting also hosted by the Secretary of State to discuss climate change issues facing the region, specifically how countries can work together to reach a new global agreement on climate change.

U.S. Vice President Biden will meet with the heads of the Caribbean delegations on two separate occa-

sions: a multi-lateral meeting to discuss regional and global cooperation and citizen education and a working lunch to discuss building a consensus on energy security.

Vice President Kerry will also deliver a keynote address to the combined 36 delegations and other special invitees.

Prime Minister Eman will speak on a panel discussion on the topic of "Comprehensive Approaches to Energy Transformation" at which he is invited to share Aruba's lessons on its successful move to greater use of renewable energy before over 500 energy leaders from both the public and private sector.

Joining Prime Minister Eman on the panel will be Joe Maria Figueres, President of Carbon War Room who recently said "Aruba can become a shining example of a successful transformation to a low carbon economy and eliminate the use of all fossil fuels by the year 2020 – I believe we can develop what I would call 'the Aruba way': a new type of development, very inclusive in terms of community involvement, very forward thinking in terms of its objectives and its vision of a low carbon economy. And at the same time, very cutting edge with respect to the technologies we have today to move in that direction." □



A Cuban and US flag wave from the balcony of the Hotel Saratoga in Havana. Negotiations between seasoned Cuban diplomats and the highest-level U.S. delegation to visit the island in 35 years failed to produce a single significant agreement — beyond the need for more talks.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

advanced Obama's most basic objective: restoring diplomatic ties between the U.S. and President Raul Castro's government, with full-fledged embassies in each other's capitals.

states with deep differences but no economic or diplomatic restrictions, like the relationship the U.S. enjoys with China.

"I don't see why it is that difficult to have relations

ment's biggest desire. Asked whether Cuba might at least examine how to expand freedoms to help the Obama administration with Congress, Vidal said, "Absolutely no." □



Washington:

Mosul strikes are start of new effort against Islamic State



In this October, 2014 photo released by the U.S. Air Force, a U.S. Navy F-18E Super Hornet supporting operations against the militant Islamic State group, leaves after receiving fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker over Iraq. U.S.-led airstrikes and Iranian aid have helped Iraqi troops, militiamen and Kurdish fighters take back bits around Islamic State-held territory, but recapturing it all remains far out of reach for this country held hostage.

(AP Photo/U.S. Air Force, Shawn Nickel)

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An uptick in airstrikes in northern Iraq this past week marks the beginning of a broader effort to disrupt Islamic State supply lines ahead of an expected operation later this year to take back the city from militants, U.S. military officials said Friday.

Coalition airstrikes have pounded at least two dozen locations around Mosul, destroying dozens of vehicles, buildings, fighting positions and insurgent units.

The airstrikes, said one senior military official, are the start of a new phase, and military leaders are watching to see how Islamic State militants respond as their supply and communications lines dry up. The official was not authorized to discuss the operations publicly so spoke on condition

of anonymity.

Meanwhile, at the Pentagon Friday Rear Adm. John Kirby said U.S. efforts to train Iraqi forces and moderate Syrian rebels to fight Islamic State militants are moving forward, even as insurgents still control about 21,000 square miles (55,000 sq. kilometers) of Iraq.

Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, laid out a flurry of details and data aimed at showing the progress the coalition has made since it began airstrikes against the insurgents in Iraq last August.

Kirby said that about 270 square miles (700 sq. kilometers) in Iraq have been regained from militants, mostly by Kurdish forces in the north. He cautioned that control of land across the country will continually change over time, and it will be a long struggle.

"I think we all recognize

that it's a small percentage of the total right now. But we're only six, seven months into this thing, too," said Kirby. "ISIL had a big head start on us, coming into the summer. A pretty

aggressive first quarter for those guys."

He added, however, that while it will take time to uproot the Islamic State group, 270 square miles (700 sq. kilometers) also is not an insignificant amount.

U.S. officials have said the coalition has stalled the momentum of the Islamic State militants, and Kirby said Friday that about 6,000 of the fighters have been killed, according to estimated battle damage assessment of the airstrikes. U.S. officials estimate there were between 20,000 and about 30,000 insurgent fighters, including core Islamic State militants and other aligned militias.

Kirby said the number killed is "not a metric that we're going to hang our hat on when it comes to talking to the success of this strategy ... This is not a uniformed army with identification cards and recruiting posters. So, it's hard to say at any given time how many fighters they have in the field."

Instead, he said that more

relevant measures of success would be the effect airstrikes and other operations have had on the insurgents' ability to operate and communicate. He said the Islamic State group is more on the defensive, struggling to get supplies and financing and having difficulties replacing destroyed weapons and machinery.

"While we're seeing all that, we're also mindful that they're still a potent force inside Iraq and in Syria. And that this is going to continue to take some time," he said.

Kirby also said that training has begun in all four planned sites in Iraq. About 3,600 Iraqi and Kurdish forces are in the pipeline for training at sites in Irbil, Bismayah, Taji and at Anbar Province's al-Asad Air Base. The training camp in Irbil began operations Friday, and about 100 peshmerga fighters have started their instruction.

So far, plans are to train nine Iraqi brigades and three Kurdish brigades. □



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Digging In

STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama wants to stay relevant until the end of his historic presidency. But the Republicans are in power in Congress, and are determined to show it. The battle lines were drawn this past week for the final two years of Obama's term, with neither side able to claim the upper hand. The defiant president used his State of the Union speech to challenge congressional Republicans to raise taxes on the wealthy to give relief to the shrinking middle class. The Republican leader of the House fired back with the highly unusual step of inviting Israel's leader to speak to Congress without consulting the White House. The Republicans, newly dominant in both houses of Congress, are not going to take the bait on taxes. But Obama is trying to demon-



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington after a weekly Republican policy meeting. President Obama wants to stay relevant until the end of his historic presidency, but the Republicans are in power in Congress, and are determined to show it.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

strate he has a key political role to play over the next two years: Bolstering the Democratic Party's chances of holding on the White House in the 2016 election. To that end, Obama is trying to show voters that his party cares for poor and middle class Americans, and the Republicans don't. He also made sure to claim credit for lifting the U.S. out of economic recession, saying his administration

proved critics wrong with policies that have brought the "fastest economic growth in over a decade." The tone of his speech was typical for the president who, far from retreating, has been on the offensive since Republicans dealt the Democrats a crushing defeat in November elections, seizing control of the Senate and expanding their majority in the House. Obama made history the

day he was first elected America's first black president in 2008, and his lofty rhetoric promising both change and bipartisan cooperation raised high hopes among many Americans frustrated with the wars and economic turmoil of George W. Bush's presidency. But Obama has struggled to shore up a clear legacy. The Republicans, who have controlled the House since 2010, have thwarted many of his domestic initiatives. New conflicts abroad have wrong-footed Obama's efforts to live up to the Nobel Peace prize he won less than a year into his presidency. With even more power now, the Republicans are certain to pursue legislation that would hurt Obama's signature achievements, including his overhauls of the health care and immigration systems. By the end of the week, Obama had vowed to veto eight measures that the Republican-controlled Congress has drawn up to

undo his policies or threaten Democratic priorities. The number of veto threats was all the more notable because Obama has only vetoed legislation twice in six years, the fewest of any president dating back to the 1880s. The Republicans showed some weakness over the past week. A deep split between moderate Republicans and firebrand conservatives forced the party to retreat from a House bill that would have banned abortion after 20 weeks. They did pass a measure that would permanently block federal money for nearly all abortions, but that was a renewal of a prohibition that has essentially been in effect for decades. Still, the flashiest attempt to show who's in charge came from the Republicans. Without bothering to ask Obama, House Speaker Boehner invited Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu to speak to a joint session of Congress in March. □



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Cops:

Pet ferrets maul newborn's face with mom home

DARBY, Pennsylvania (AP)

Authorities say a trio of pet ferrets mauled a newborn who was left downstairs in her car seat, chewing off the baby's nose and part of her cheek and lip.

Officials say the month-old baby was attacked Thursday afternoon by ferrets that escaped from a cloth cage while the girl's mother went upstairs and her father was sleeping. Authorities say the baby was in stable condition in intensive care Friday after emergency reconstructive surgery at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Police say four other young children have been placed with relatives amid concerns about their parents' ability to care for them.

"The parents, I believe, have problems," Police Chief Robert Smythe told the Delaware County Daily Times. "They are challenged. They can't take care of these kids."

The ferrets scampered away when the mother came downstairs after hearing the baby's screams, Smythe said.

According to the website of the American Ferret Association, a healthy, a well-trained ferret shouldn't bite but needs to be taught acceptable behaviors like any other pet. The association says that ferrets and kids can play well together but that small children shouldn't be left alone with them or any other animal. Smythe said investigators found more food for the family's ferrets and cats than for the children. Police have asked prosecutors to approve charges against the parents.

Army:

Texas post lacked system to ID rampage threat

EMILY SCHMALL

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) —

Fort Hood did not have a system in place that could have anticipated a deadly rampage last April that left four soldiers dead and 16 wounded, according to a U.S. Army report released Friday.

There were no clear warnings that Spc. Ivan Lopez would go on a two-block shooting spree before killing himself on April 2, the report released Friday concluded. It also said Lopez's supervisors would have had difficulty recognizing any personal problems leading up to the attack.

The report also found that no single factor prompted the incident, despite Army investigators' previous findings that Lopez had been in an argument after being denied leave.

Investigators have said the 34-year-old Iraq War veteran was undergoing treatment for depression and

anxiety while being evaluated for post-traumatic stress disorder, but was not considered "likely" to

He had recently lost two family members and faced financial difficulties, officials said. A spokesman



Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, commanding general of III Corps and Fort Hood, speaks with the media outside of an entrance to the Fort Hood military base in Texas. Fort Hood did not have a system in place that could have anticipated a deadly rampage last April that left four soldiers dead and 16 wounded, according to a U.S. Army report released Friday, Jan. 23, 2015.

(AP Photo/Tamir Kalifa)

commit violence. He had recently lost two family members, faced financial difficulties and was denied leave to travel to his native Puerto Rico, investigators noted in April.

for Lopez's family said in April that he was upset he was granted only a 24-hour leave — which was extended to two days — to attend his mother's funeral in Puerto Rico. Army spokes-

man Lt. Col. Donald Peters said it is "absolutely untrue" that he was granted only a day's leave, instead getting six days' leave. Risk assessment at Fort Hood relies on self-reporting, the report said, adding that that Lopez could sometimes be "misleading or deceptive." Recommendations in the report included exploring whether soldiers should register privately owned weapons with their commanders.

The Army previously said it was logistically impossible to stop and search all 80,000 people who work on the sprawling base every day. Lopez's shooting occurred nearly five years after Army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan gunned down 13 people at a medical readiness building at Fort Hood. Hasan carried a high-powered pistol and several cartridges of ammunition into the building under his green Army fatigues and opened fire for several minutes.

Denver:

Woman who tried to help terrorists receives 4 years

SADIE GURMAN

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A 19-year-old woman who tried to go to Syria to help Islamic State militants has been sentenced to four years in prison.

Shannon Conley learned her punishment in Denver federal court on Friday as her parents watched.

Wearing a black and tan headscarf with her jail uniform, she tearfully told the judge that she has disavowed jihad and that the people who influenced her misconstrued the Quran.

Conley pleaded guilty to

one count of conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization in September under a deal that requires her to divulge information she may have about other Americans with similar intentions. FBI agents say Conley wanted to marry a suitor she met online who told her he was fighting with the extremists. She repeatedly told them she wanted to fight alongside him or use her skills as a nurse's aide to help.

Judge Raymond Moore said the sentence was meant to deter others with similar intentions. Earlier in

the hearing he expressed doubt that Conley had disavowed jihad, pointing to a letter she wrote to a friend from jail in which she ridiculed other inmates for denouncing terrorism.

He also said Conley has a history of defiance that has played out in the case and that she needs mental help.

"Defiance has been a part of her fabric for a long time. She has been defiant before this," the judge said. "This is not the exceptional act. This is Shannon being defiant yet again."

Conley could have faced

up to five years in federal prison after pleading guilty to trying to help Islamic State militants, but her sentence depended at least in part on how helpful she was to authorities still investigating her case and others like it.

Authorities became aware of Conley's growing interest in extremism in November 2013 after she started talking about terrorism with employees of a suburban Denver church. They had seen her wandering around and taking notes on the layout of the campus, according to court documents.

Good times keep rolling at the pump with \$2 gasoline



A motorist pumps gas at a station where the cash price for regular unleaded was under \$2 a gallon, in Leonia, N.J. For the first time since 2009, most Americans are paying less than \$2 a gallon. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — At some point this will end, perhaps even soon. The price of gasoline will not fall to zero. But for the first time since 2009, most Americans are paying less than \$2 a gallon. Just three months ago experts were shocked when it fell under \$3. "It's crazy," says Michael

Noel, an economics professor at Texas Tech University who studies oil and gasoline prices. "But for consumers it's very, very good." Consumers and the economies of the U.S. and most of the rest of the world are basking in the lowest prices for crude oil and gasoline in six years. U.S. crude oil traded Friday just below \$46 a barrel and the aver-

age price for a gallon of gas was \$2.04. While there are some losers, such as oil companies, the oil-producing states and the oil-exporting countries that benefited from \$100 a barrel for four straight years, most economists agree that the good outweighs the bad. The drop in prices is acting like an immediate tax cut

for drivers, leaving them more money to spend on other things. The Energy Department predicts lower prices this year will save a typical household \$750 compared with last year. Julia Conner paid \$1.98 a gallon Thursday near her home in Wesley Chapel, N.C. Saving on gas has made her more willing to go out for lunch with co-workers at the animal care and control office in Charlotte where she works, or out for dinner with her husband. Pump prices have declined for a record 120 straight days, according to AAA, though the size of the declines is shrinking and the streak may soon end. But even if the price rises this spring, as it typically does, driving during summer travel season should still cost less than it has in years. Conner is hoping she can afford a 300-mile roundtrip to Asheville, North Carolina, or even further away, to Tennessee, this summer. "Even if it's not \$1.98 that would definitely help as far as vacation goes," she said. Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial, expects lower gasoline prices to help the U.S. economy to grow 3.3 percent this year, the highest since the economy grew at that pace in 2005. "This is one thing that hits the masses, not just a minority of people," she says. "There's some benefit for almost everyone." It's also helping businesses with high fuel bills. "We've been able to increase our net profits, which has allowed us to reward our employees with bonuses and also purchase three new vehicles to replace older ones," says Ricky Wingard, owner of Econ-O-Bug, a pest control company in Lexington, S.C. His fleet of 22 vehicles drive an average 1,600 miles a day. Southwest Airlines told investors Thursday that it expects to save \$1.7 billion on fuel costs this year. Other beneficiaries of low oil prices include some of the world's biggest econo-

mies, according to an analysis by Moody's: China, the eurozone, and Japan. Their gains will far outstrip the losses that are pinching the budgets of exporting countries such as OPEC nations, Russia, and Norway. Oil drillers that fueled a boom in U.S. production will suffer, along with states such as Texas and North Dakota that rely heavily on drilling activity. Oil service companies have announced layoffs of thousands of workers just in the past week, and the analysis firm Wood Mackenzie expects drilling investment in North America to fall by \$50 billion, or nearly 40 percent, over the next year. But the oil exploration and production business, while sizeable, is small compared to the rest of the U.S. economy. And the U.S. still needs to import oil to meet its needs. The big drop in oil prices, a result of rising production in the U.S. and elsewhere at a time when global demand growth is weak, means the U.S. is sending fewer dollars overseas. And drivers are pumping fewer dollars into their gas tanks. The national average price is \$1.25 less than a year ago, according to AAA. The national average is over \$2 only due to high pump prices in Alaska and Hawaii — \$2.78 and \$3.28, respectively. Missouri drivers are paying just \$1.79 a gallon, the cheapest in the nation. Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma are also paying less than \$1.85. In the Lower 48, California drivers are paying the most, \$2.47 on average, followed by New York at \$2.46. Gasoline prices rise nearly every year between late winter and early summer as refineries slow down for maintenance and switch to more expensive summer blends of gasoline to meet clean-air standards. Still, even a typical rise of 60 to 65 cents over the next few months would produce a springtime high of around \$2.70 — far beneath even the lowest prices of recent years. □



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ARUBA WINE TIME

Deere to lay off more than 1,000 in Iowa, Illinois plants

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

Deere will lay off about 910 workers indefinitely from factories mostly in Iowa and sideline another 500 employees in Illinois until late summer, as the agricultural equipment maker continues its adjustment to demand for its products.

The Moline, Illinois, company also said Friday that it is adding 220 jobs at construction and forestry factories in Iowa. It plans to fill nearly all those positions with workers were laid off at agricultural equipment factories last year.

The latest indefinite layoffs will be centered on sites that build agricultural equipment, a core element of its business. They include 565 workers from three Waterloo, Iowa, locations; another 300 from the Des Moines Works in Ankeny, Iowa; and 45 from the Harvester Works in East Moline, Illinois.

Employees laid off until summer work at the company's seeding and cylinder factory in Moline. That location is going on an extended inventory adjustment shutdown. The company said it typically goes through a seasonal inventory adjustment around this time of year.

The layoffs will begin in early February, and most will be effective in late March. □

Gauge of US economy up 0.5 percent in December

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — An index designed to predict the future health of the U.S. economy posted a fourth straight solid gain in December.

The Conference Board said Friday that its index of leading indicators increased 0.5 percent in December after a revised gain of 0.4 percent in November. The index also posted solid gains in September and October after a flat reading in August.

The December increase reflected widespread strength with eight of the 10 forward-pointing indicators that make up the index showing strength.

"The short-term outlook is getting brighter and the economy continues to build momentum," said Ataman Ozyildirim, a Conference Board economist. "Still, a lack of growth in residential construction and average weekly hours in manufacturing remains a concern."

The largest positive contributors to the index were the spread in interest rates, a fall in weekly unemployment claims, consumer expectations and new orders to manufacturers for capital goods excluding aircraft.

The only negative contributor to the index in December was a drop in building permits. Average weekly manufacturing hours held steady, meaning it did not add or subtract from the overall index reading. □



Real estate agent Sam Golkar, left, tours a home being sold by fellow agent Frank Ruan, right, in Cupertino, Calif. The National Association of Realtors reported on sales of existing homes in December on Friday, Jan. 23, 2015. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

US Financial Front:

American home sales rise in December

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More Americans purchased homes in December, yet total sales slipped in 2014 as first-time buyers struggled to find houses.

The National Association of Realtors said Friday that sales of existing homes rose 2.4 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.04 million. But over the course of the entire year, sales fell 3.1 percent to 4.93 million.

Only 29 percent of sales went to first-time buyers last month, compared to a historic average of 40 percent. Prospective buyers were priced out of the market due to rising home values and relatively stagnant incomes. Still, affordability has improved in recent months as mortgage rates have plunged, leading to the possibility of stronger sales in 2015.

"Sales will increase throughout 2015 as potential buyers feel more comfortable

about the economic outlook and lenders are willing to make loans," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services. Median home prices increased 6 percent over the past 12 months to \$209,500. There were relatively few listings in December, as the supply of homes on the market dropped to 4.4 months from 5.1 months in November, the Realtors said. The supply was the lowest in two years.

Much of the gains in sales came from the West, with additional growth in the South. Sales slumped in the Northeast and Midwest. Home-buying appears poised to improve, however.

"There are good supporting factors behind the housing market," said Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Strong job growth over the previous year has added nearly 3 million new paychecks to the economy. Mortgage rates have fallen

sharply, and home values are rising at a slower clip, giving prospective buyers some financial leeway.

The Realtors expect sales will rise 8 percent this year to 5.3 million homes. Much of that growth will hinge on first-time buyers getting out of the rental market.

Jed Kolko, chief economist at Trulia, predicts that much of the growth will occur in the suburbs.

For starters, the suburbs are more affordable, with prices rising 5.7 percent per square foot last year, compared to an 8.1 percent surge in urban neighborhoods. Secondly, urban populations have risen in recent years because of what Kolko calls a "demographic jolt" from twenty-somethings renting close to downtown, a pattern that will soon reverse itself.

"As millennials get older, many will follow a familiar path: They'll partner up, have kids, and move to the suburbs," Kolko said in a report released this week. □

American Living:

Knocked for risks, youth football league plays defense

KEN BELSON

© 2015 New York Times

SAN ANTONIO - On a Thursday night in December, Brian Morgan stood at the 50-yard line on a community football field as two teams from the Outlaws, a youth organization, practiced to his left and right. Both teams - one with 6- and 7-year-olds and the other with 10- and 11-year-olds - were preparing for championship games in a few days.

Unlike the coaches in track suits, Morgan, 43, wore a jacket and slacks, having just returned from a business trip to Houston. As the younger boys in full pads clanked off one another on one side of the field, Morgan took stock of the controversial Texas Youth Football Association, which he co-founded 15 years ago.

The association, which contains 105 organizations that have up to five teams in different age groups, fueled a national debate about youth football and



Junior San Antonio Outlaw Darryon Cline runs the ball during the Texas Youth Football Association Championship Game at Cavalier Stadium in Austin, Texas. The Association, which includes 105 organizations with up to five teams in different age groups, has fueled a national debate about youth football and parenting after several teams were featured in the television series, "Friday Night Tykes."

(Jennifer Whitney/The New York Times)

parenting after several teams were featured in the television series "Friday Night Tykes."

Coaches were shown screaming at young boys and leading them in risky

drills. Parents were portrayed as overbearing. Children cried and vomited during practices in brutal heat. One stadium banned TYFA teams. USA Football, the NFL-funded group that governs amateur football and promotes safe tackling, slammed the association because of coaches' language.

The reaction to the show thrust Morgan, a client services consultant by day and a volunteer league commissioner by night, into the role of defending the association and its tough-love, win-at-all-costs philosophy. He spoke on radio and television programs, was cornered by concerned parents and recently appeared on a panel in New York.

He acknowledged that there were bad apples in TYFA. Coaches were suspended for using foul language and encouraging their players to harm their opponents. Parents who go on the field will now be barred from future games.

"The coaches, the 'in your face,' the intensity took people by surprise," Morgan said. "Do they cross the line? Sure. The cameras caught some stuff that we had to tighten up,

like scrimmaging younger players against older kids. That's a no-no. And there's no reason for parents to taunt other parents."

But by and large, he said, the show portrayed teams playing hard and learning life lessons. Besides, no one is forcing parents to have their sons play on TYFA teams, which have fewer weight and age restrictions and more practices than other youth football organizations like Pop Warner.

For all the controversy it generated, the first season, which aired last year on the Esquire Network, was a boon to TYFA. (The first installment in the 10-part second season was broadcast Tuesday.) After several years of declining enrollment amid reports about the long-term effects of concussions, the number of players in TYFA rose by about 35 percent, to roughly 18,000, last season, which concluded in mid-December.

This has only emboldened Morgan, who said he did not buy talk of the decline of youth football. The concussions, the violence on the field, and the manic parents and coaches who push children as young as 6 to play a dangerous game are part of the sport, he said, not omens of its demise.

"Some people say it's too young for them to learn how to win and lose," Morgan said. "And I say, 'When do you start?' You want them to learn how to lose and how to pick yourself up after a loss, how do you win and win humbly? It's a shame competition has become a kind of a bad word."

Morgan's defense of the association comes as the NFL the NCAA, high schools, youth leagues and seemingly everyone else involved in the sport are rushing to address concerns that the game is too dangerous. They have embraced new helmet designs, safer tackling techniques, penalties for hitting defenseless players

and rules that require players suspected of suffering concussions to come out of games.

Morgan does not dismiss these efforts. But it is better to admit that the sport will always have its risks, he said, adding that efforts to prevent those risks would dilute the game's larger lessons, including the need for hard work, discipline and camaraderie.

Either way, the show has raised questions about America's obsession with sports and the increasing specialization in youth sports. It has also revitalized the debate over when, if ever, it is safe to let a young child play tackle football.

"When I was a kid, we were focused on winning, but the intensity I see now, both from my kids' coaches and on this show, I don't remember," said Tiki Barber, a former New York Giants running back, whose 12-year-old son plays tackle football and has had a concussion. "I think it's the evolution of sport and the desire for excellence and to move up to high school, college and the NFL."

Those involved with the show see it differently. The cameras followed them for months, so it was perhaps inevitable that they felt that they were misunderstood at times. They were especially upset that critics thought they cared little about the safety of their children.

"They highlighted some of the bad stuff, but this is something that's gone on for years," Kinton Ammer, whose son, Jaden, played for the San Antonio Colts. "I don't think there's anyone in TYFA who is trying to hurt anybody. We have to teach our child that life is not fair, and the earlier he learns it, the more prepared he is for later in life." Still, the show forced parents to confront some of their worst impulses. Lisa Connell, whose 9-year-old son, Colby, was shown throwing up, was shocked that she came across as a bossy parent. □



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Pro-Russian rebels reject peace deal, launch new offensive

MSTYSLAV CHERNOV

Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) —

Pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine rejected a previously signed peace deal Friday and launched a new multipronged offensive against Ukrainian government troops, upending recent European attempts to mediate an end to the fighting.

The main separatist leader in the rebellious Donetsk region vowed to push Ukrainian soldiers out of the area and said insurgents would not take part in any more cease-fire talks. Another rebel went even further, saying they would not abide by a peace deal signed in September.

Separatist leader Alexander Zakharchenko said rebel fighters went on the offensive to gain more territory and forestall a Ukrainian attack. He declared they would push government troops to the border of the Donetsk region and possibly beyond.

"Attempts to talk about a cease-fire will no longer be

undertaken by our side," Zakharchenko said.

The peace deal signed in September in the Belarusian capital of Minsk envisaged a cease-fire and a pullout of heavy weapons from a division line in eastern Ukraine. It has been repeatedly violated by both sides, and heavy artillery and rocket barrages have increased the civilian death toll in the last few weeks.

Foreign ministers from Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany agreed Wednesday to revive that division line, but fighting has continued unabated. The U.N. human rights agency on Friday raised its estimate of the conflict's overall death toll to nearly 5,100 since April.

The tentative peace deal forged this week in Berlin called for Ukrainian troops and Russian-backed separatists to pull back their heavy arms 15 kilometers (9 miles) on either side of the line, although there was no agreement on a withdrawal of troops.

But rebel spokesman Eduard Basurin threw that agreement into doubt, saying the insurgents "will no longer consider the Minsk agreement in the form it

contradicted the official position of Russia, which has repeatedly pledged respect for the Minsk agreement, even though it has been reluctant to meet its

Ukrainian border by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Battles intensified last weekend over Donetsk airport, a gleaming showcase for the



A Russian backed separatist rebel aims his machine gun while protecting a supply position in the Kievsky district, 3 km from the Airport, in Donetsk, Ukraine, Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015. A mortar shell hit a bus in the eastern Ukrainian rebel stronghold of Donetsk on Thursday, killing at least 13 people, the separatist leader in the city said.

(AP Photo/Manu Brabo)

Austerity-battered Greeks favor radical left before Sunday's vote

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The winds of political change are coursing through austerity-weary Greece, but a financial whirlwind may lurk round the corner.

Opinion polls ahead of Sunday's closely-watched national election agree: The radical left opposition Syriza party, which has vowed to rewrite the terms of Greece's international bailout, is poised to defeat Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' conservatives. To govern — in a historic first for the Greek left — it may need the backing of a smaller party, but most seem willing to oblige.

"I want this government to go. It has disappointed me," said Babis Limnaios, 41, an Athens electrician who last voted in 2004 for the conservatives but will now back Syriza. "I want them to change everything — tax, health care, educa-

tion." Communist-rooted Syriza has alarmed markets and investors with its talk of massive debt forgiveness and riding roughshod over the bailout deals. But the mood is less fraught than in the last national election in 2012, when many saw a Syriza victory as a precursor to a possible Greek exit from the eurozone, the 19 nations that now share the euro currency.

For one, Greece's European partners are less exposed to fallout from a Greek financial collapse. The eurozone has a bailout fund and the European Central Bank has committed to buy the bonds of troubled countries, if needed. And despite erratic bombshells from some Syriza officials — one candidate suggested printing euros if push comes to shove — the party is straining to play up its mainstream, Eurocentric aspects.

was signed," although he added that they will remain open for peace talks.

Basurin's bold statement

end of the deal, which also requested the withdrawal of foreign fighters and the monitoring of the Russian-

Euro 2012 soccer championship that has been reduced to rubble by months of clashes.

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Yemen's Shiite rebels try to avoid overstepping amid protest



Houthi Shiite fighters wearing an army uniform ride on a pickup truck as they guard a street during a demonstration to show support for their comrades in Sanaa, Yemen, Friday, Jan. 23, 2015. Arabic on the posters reads, "God is great. Death to America. Death to Israel. A curse on the Jews. Victory to Islam."

(AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

**AHMED AL-HAJ
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press**

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Yemen's Shiite rebels faced mounting pressures and signs of internal divisions Friday after the U.S.-backed president and his cabinet resigned rather than submit at gunpoint to their increasing demands for greater power. With thousands of demonstrators on both sides taking to the streets

across the impoverished Arab country, the rebels appeared wary of the dangers of overstepping in Yemen's minefield of tribal politics, sectarian divisions, al-Qaida militancy and a strong secessionist movement. Although rebel gunmen manned checkpoints throughout the capital and continued besieging the houses of government ministers, they made no public attempt to fill the vacuum

created by the resignations of President Abed Rabbo Hadi, his prime minister and cabinet. And there were signs that the national parliament would reject the resignations when it meets Sunday. Indeed, it seemed as though the rebels, known as the Houthis, do not want to rule the country outright and would prefer that Hadi remain as a figurehead president. □

Activists:

Syrian airstrike kills 35 near Damascus

BEIRUT (AP) — A Syrian government airstrike hit an opposition-held suburb of the capital shortly after Friday prayers, killing at least 35 people, scattering bodies and rubble in the streets and setting at least one building on fire, activists said.

An activist based near the capital who goes by the name of Abu Yazan said the air raid struck near a popular market in the town of Hamouriyeh just east of Damascus.

The Local Coordination Committees, an activist

collective, said the strike hit people leaving a mosque, killing 35 people. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights put the death toll at 42, including six children. It said the number of dead is expected to rise because many people were seriously wounded. Casualty figures often differ in Syria in the chaotic aftermath of an attack.

An amateur video posted online of the raid's aftermath showed two men carrying a lifeless body on a stretcher as others scamper across the rubble-

strewn street looking for survivors. Thick, gray smoke hangs in the air. A fire rages in the shell of a building on the street corner.

A boy screams over a puddle of blood on the pavement.

The video appeared genuine and corresponded to other Associated Press reporting of the events depicted.

Syria's crisis began with an uprising against President Bashar Assad, then turned into a civil war. So far, 220,000 people have been killed. □

New generation enters line to Saudi throne as king mourned

A. AL-SHIHRI

A. BATRAWY

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — As Saudi Arabia mourned its late ruler, King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud quickly set the course for the monarchy's future Friday by naming a second-in-line to the throne from the next generation of princes for the first time.

The appointment came as the ultraconservative Sunni-ruled kingdom buried King Abdullah after a subdued and austere funeral attended by Muslim dignitaries from around the world. Abdullah, who led the country for nearly two decades, died early Friday at the age of 90 after falling ill with pneumonia.

Buried that same afternoon in an unmarked grave, Abdullah's body was shrouded in a simple beige cloth, his remains interred without a coffin in line with Islamic tradition that all people — even kings — are equal in death before God.

Just hours before, the ruling family once again showed its shrewd ability to coalesce quickly around thorny issues of succession.

A royal decree affirmed Salman's half brother Muqrin, 69, as Crown Prince and the king's immediate successor.

Salman named Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, 55, as deputy crown prince. It marked the first time a grandson of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, is in line to become king.

King Salman, 79, promised in a nationally televised speech to continue the policies of his predecessors.

"We will continue adhering to the correct policies which Saudi Arabia has followed since its establishment," said Salman, a veteran of the country's top leadership who served for nearly 50 years as the governor of the capital, Riyadh, and later as defense minister. Salman likely will avoid directly challenging the kingdom's influential clerics and is not expected to usher in sweeping political reforms or rapidly expand women's rights, in line with previous monarchs.

For almost a century, Saudi kings have overseen Mecca, giving them enormous prestige and global clout with the world's 1.6 billion Muslims. To reemphasize their claim to Islam's holiest sites, the current King Salman, like the two kings before him, assumed the title of "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques," a reference to Mecca's Grand Mosque and the Prophet Muhammad's first mosque in Medina.

For more than six decades, power has passed among the sons of the country's founder, from brother to brother. But the ranks of that generation, largely in their 70s and 80s, are thinning.

The decision to name Mohammed as deputy crown prince helps alleviate uncertainty over which of the late King Abdul-Aziz's hundreds of grandsons would ascend to the throne. Mohammed is the son of Salman's full brother, Nayef, who was a formidable power in Saudi Arabia until his death in 2012.

Mohammed, who oversees Saudi counterterrorism efforts, will keep his post as interior minister. He was the target of a botched assassination attempt by al-Qaida militants in 2009. A leaked U.S. diplomatic cable from that same year described him as "more rounded, more intellectual (and) more educated" than his father, who was interior minister and crown prince before him.

The Saudi Embassy in Washington says Mohammed graduated with a political science degree from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

Salman also appointed his son, Prince Mohammed, as defense minister. The prince, in his 30s, studied law in Saudi Arabia. □

City that sparked Venezuela protests braces for more unrest

JACOBO G. GARCIA

Associated Press

SAN CRISTOBAL, Venezuela (AP) —

The young men move furtively among the would-be shoppers queued outside a supermarket, passing out pamphlets calling for the resignation of President Nicolas Maduro, whose socialist policies they blame for leaving store shelves barren and Venezuela's economy in shambles.

A lookout signals that he's spotted an armed national guardsman approaching, and the group scatters like birdshot. This is not the time to risk being detained, student activist Osmel Garcia explained.

"Nobody wants to get arrested now when things are about to heat up," he said.

One year ago, Garcia was among the thousands of people who staged violent protests in this mountain city in Venezuela's far west. Home to several colleges, San Cristobal was the crucible of student-led unrest that spread to other

cities and provoked clashes with authorities and pro-government demonstrators, ultimately leaving 43 people dead and sending hundreds to jail, but failing to unseat Maduro.

The barricades of burning tires and steel manned here by rock-throwing youth only fell after the government sent in tanks, thousands of troops and even scrambled fighter jets to make low, menacing passes over the city of 1 million.

While the streets are calmer now, tension is building again as the anniversary of the February uprising nears. Venezuela's crisis has only deepened with falling crude prices crippling the oil-dependent economy, leading to a cash crunch that has restricted imported goods to just a trickle. Basic items like flour and diapers are hard to come by even on the black market and the government has had to deploy soldiers to keep peace outside stores where people wait hours for a chance to

pick through near-barren shelves.

"Things are as bad as they were a year ago but now, in

ages and spiraling inflation have shaken support for Maduro even among the poor who rely on the social

Activists who took part in the 2014 unrest say they've learned from their mistakes and are working hard to counter mistrust of the traditionally elitist opposition.

An anti-government protest called for Saturday in Caracas, the first there in 10 months, seeks to harness anger over the shortages under the slogan "March of the Empty Pots." It's a departure from the previous rally cry that called for Maduro's departure: "La Salida," or "The Exit." Analysts said that phrase helped bolster Maduro's contention he's been the target of a right-wing conspiracy led by the United States.

Activists in San Cristobal appear to be preparing for battle. One student who helped organize the 2014 uprising said protesters are lining up supplies of gunpowder needed to assemble small explosive devices called "potato bombs" and to prepare spike-strips made of nails placed on a hose to stop pro-government motorcyclists. He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of arrest. □



A demonstrator wearing a Guy Fawkes mask displays a poster that reads in Spanish "Maduro Resign" during a protest in San Cristobal, Venezuela, Friday, Jan. 23, 2015. Venezuela's crisis has only deepened with falling crude prices crippling the oil-dependent economy, leading to a cash crunch that has restricted imported goods to just a trickle.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

addition to the crime, there are more shortages in other parts of the country and the lines are longer," says Jose Vicente Garcia, a city councilman who helped lead last year's rebellion. "All the conditions needed to end this government are coming together."

The combination of short-

programs launched by his mentor, the late President Hugo Chavez. Polls show Maduro's approval ratings have sunk to 22 percent, a low for his 2-year-old administration and just half the support for opposition leaders Henrique Capriles and the jailed Leopoldo Lopez.

Maduro criticizes visit by three former Latin American leaders

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) —

President Nicolas Maduro on Friday blasted a weekend visit to Venezuela by the former leaders of Mexico, Chile and Colombia, accusing them of inadvertently lending support to extremist groups trying to oust him from power. Felipe Calderon of Mexico, Sebastian Pinera of Chile and Andres Pastrana of Colombia are supposed to participate in a pro-democracy symposium organized by Maduro's foes. They're also expected to try on Sunday to visit jailed opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, who has been imprisoned for nearly a year for leading protests against the socialist government.

Maduro, who is struggling to rebuild Venezuela's oil-dependent economy

amid spiraling inflation and widespread shortages, told supporters that the three conservative former presidents would have "blood on their hands" for backing for his opponents. He also accused Calderon of having ties with Mexican drug traffickers and called Pinera a supporter of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

Even while saying he respects free speech, Maduro urged the government's supporters to reject the presidents' visit as interference in Venezuela's internal affairs.

"You should be worried about the crisis in your countries and not stick your stinking noses into the affairs of the Venezuelan people," Maduro said at a rally commemorating the anniversary of the 1958 coup that ousted dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez. □

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UN Security Council members arrive in Haiti for 3-day visit

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — U.N. Security Council members arrived Friday in Haiti for a three-day visit aimed in part at urging the government to hold long-delayed municipal and legislative elections.

Representatives of the council's 15 member states are expected to meet with President Michel Martelly and other officials. Martelly began ruling by decree last week when Parliament was dissolved after legislators' terms expired amid a political stalemate.

The U.N. said in a statement that the delegation also would assess the implementation of Security Council resolutions such as the strengthening of Haiti's police force. Council members last year extended the U.N. peace-keeping mission in Haiti by a year and expect to cut the number of troops from 5,021 to 2,370 by June.

In addition to the capital of Port-au-Prince, the council representatives are to visit the northern coastal city



A protester holds a sign that reads in Creole "Coalition Piti Dessaline says down Minustha," during a demonstration calling for the resignation of President Michel Martelly in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, Jan. 23, 2015. The hardline opposition to Martelly has promised a wave of intensified street protests to try and pressure him from office. Martelly took power in 2011 and is due to leave next year. (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

of Cap-Haitien.

The visit comes just days after a new Haitian Cabinet and other government

leaders were sworn in. Haiti last week also swore in new Prime Minister Evans Paul, prompting support-

ers of opposition factions call for more protests demanding that Martelly step down. He became

president in 2011 and is scheduled to step down next year.

Martelly on Thursday announced a new, nine-member provisional electoral council that will be in charge of holding delayed elections this year. The members were sworn in on Friday.

Samantha Power, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nation, said she was looking forward to meeting with Haitians and hearing how the U.S. and the Security Council can help them.

"Gains for Haiti will be for naught without political stability and strong democratic institutions," she tweeted. "Current impasse jeopardizes progress."

A couple of thousand people participated in a protest Friday demanding Martelly's ouster, and some also expressed anger at the U.N., accusing it of introducing cholera to Haiti.

A cholera outbreak has killed more than 8,000 people and sickened more than 700,000 after human waste was dumped into Haiti's main river in October 2010. Scientific studies have said cholera was likely introduced in Haiti by U.N. peacekeepers from Nepal.

A U.S. judge earlier this month ruled that the U.N. is immune from a lawsuit seeking compensation for victims of the deadly outbreak. Brian Concannon, executive director of the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, criticized the U.N. in a statement this week saying it has not funded a plan to contain the epidemic.

"It is time for the Security Council to reassess its priorities in Haiti," he said.

US seeks fraudster released from TCI prison

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A Jamaican financier convicted of running a Ponzi scheme that bilked \$220 million from thousands of investors across the Caribbean and central Florida has been released from prison in the Turks & Caicos Islands, officials said Friday. Amy Filjones, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Florida, said in a Friday email that the U.S. government is now "actively seeking to extradite" David Smith from the British territory to serve out his 30-year federal sentence.

In March 2011, Smith

agreed to waive extradition when he pleaded guilty to 23 counts of fraud and conspiracy in federal court in Orlando. Months earlier, he had been sentenced to 6 1/2 years in Turks & Caicos after pleading guilty to money laundering and conspiracy to defraud. Florida prosecutors said he could serve the sentences concurrently, so Smith has more than two decades still to serve in the U.S.

Althea Been, a spokeswoman for the Turks & Caicos premier's office, asserted Smith had finished his prison sentence on time and denied local media reports that he was released early for good behavior.

Turks & Caicos Attorney General Rhondalee Braithwaite said local authorities were working on his extradition to the U.S., but did not wish to comment further because "this matter is currently before the courts."

For years, the high-flying Smith was an influential figure in Jamaica before courts in two other countries exposed him as a fraudster. He built his Olint investment group by pooling money supposedly for currency trading. But instead of investing money in trades, Smith used his clients' cash to pay off redemption requests from other investors and funnel

money into his personal bank account.

His U.S. plea agreement said Smith used investors' money to make a down payment on a Lear jet, sponsor a popular jazz festival in Jamaica, and contributed millions to the island's two major political parties and several prominent individual politicians. In 2006, Jamaica's Financial Services Commission raided his Kingston offices and barred it from operating in the country, prompting Smith to move to Turks & Caicos, where he bought a \$2 million house. But Jamaican politicians continued to take his campaign contributions.



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years. The honorees were Mr. John and Mrs. Sharon Weir from Nashville, Tennessee and Mr. David and Mrs. Isabella Heyman from Montoursville, Pennsylvania. Both couples are loyal members of the Costa Linda Beach resort, and they love Aruba for the weather,

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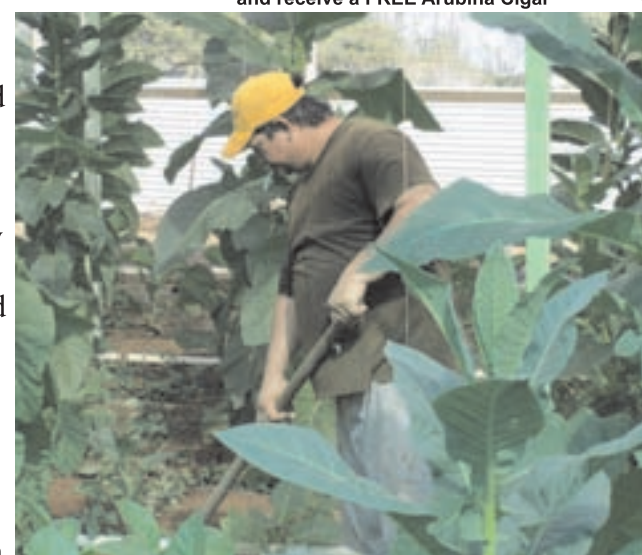
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

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A summary of the wild 2014 NFL season

JOHN MARSHALL

AP Sports Writer

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — The NFL has reached the pinnacle of its season with the Super Bowl just around the corner. Although it's the most popular sport in the U.S., for many Americans and millions around the world, the Super Bowl is the only football game they will watch all year.

Some people know more about the NFL's domestic violence policy or the way the league inflates footballs than about the actual teams — the Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots — playing in the big game on Feb. 1.

A lookback at an NFL season that will be long remembered more for things that happened off the field:

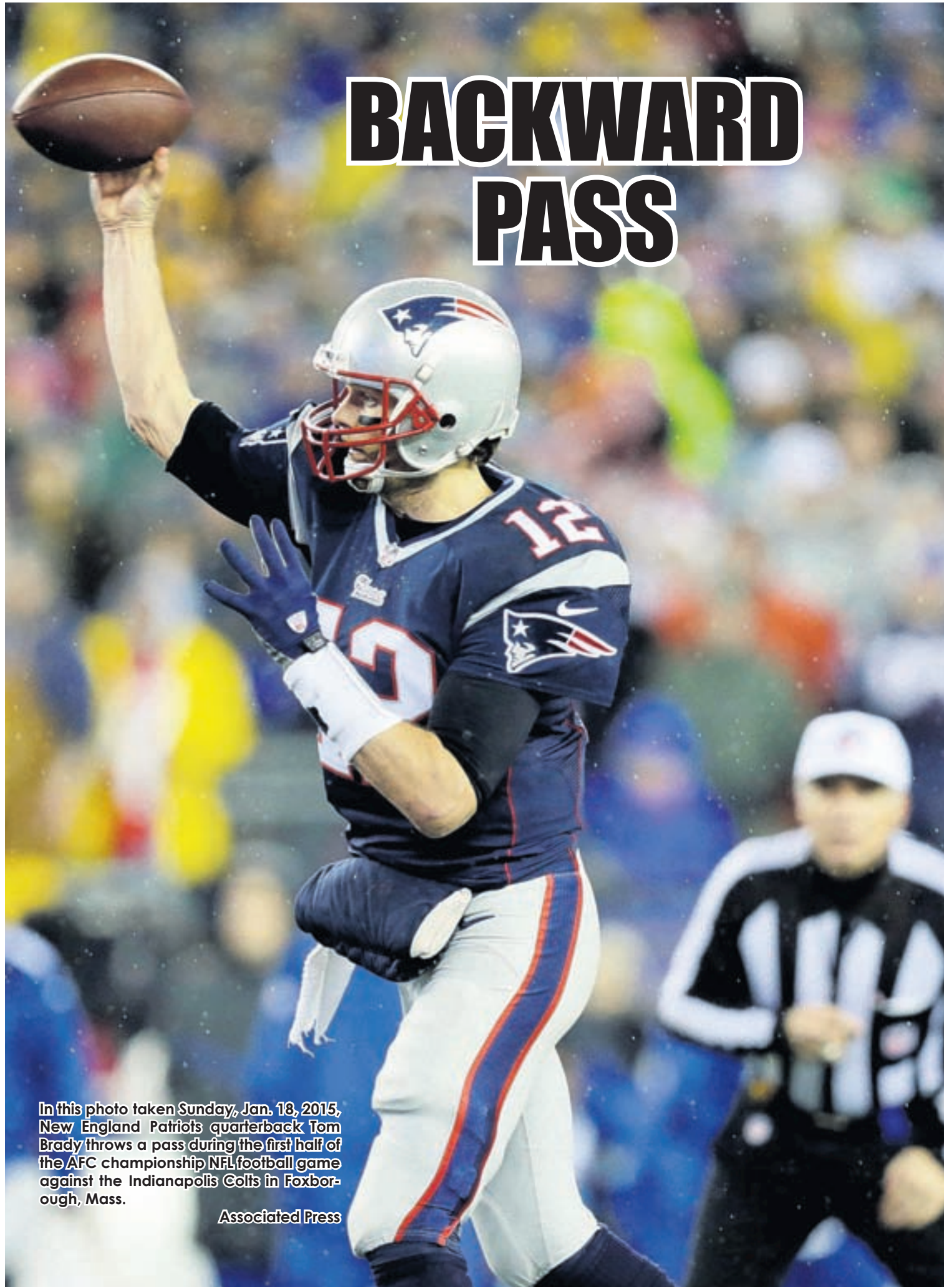
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice was suspended for the season and released by the team after video surfaced of him punching his fiancée in an elevator.

Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson missed every game but one after being arrested on charges of child abuse for striking his son with a wooden switch.

The San Francisco 49ers also released defensive end Ray McDonald after a series of missteps, including a domestic violence accusation, and Carolina defensive end Greg Hardy was placed on the league's exempt list stemming from a domestic violence conviction.

NFL owners approved changes to the league's personal conduct policy in December, though the players union has yet to respond.



In this photo taken Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady throws a pass during the first half of the AFC championship NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press



Bulls shake off form wobble to trounce Spurs

The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Derrick Rose scored 22 points and the struggling Chicago Bulls beat the San Antonio Spurs 104-81 on Thursday night.

The Bulls came away with a much-needed win after dropping six of eight and handed the defending champions their most lopsided loss of the season.

Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose (1) shoots past San Antonio Spurs guard Danny Green (14) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, in Chicago.

Associated Press

The Central division leaders broke this one open in the third quarter, outscoring the Spurs 31-20, and snapped San Antonio's four-game win streak.

Rose, who called out his team after Monday's loss at Cleveland, backed it up by going hard to the rim and hitting 9 of 16 shots. He led six Bulls in double figures.

Pau Gasol added 12 points and 17 rebounds after being voted to his fifth All-Star game and first as a starter. The Spurs' Kawhi Leonard scored all of his team-leading 16 points in the first half. JAZZ 101, BUCKS 99

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Gordon Hayward scored 13 of his game-high 24 points in the fourth quarter and the Utah Jazz held on for the win as the Bucks missed their last five shots in the closing minute.

The Jazz appeared to be in control after a 15-3 run, taking a 101-92 lead on two free throws by Hayward with 2:35 remaining. But the Bucks pulled within the final score on Jared Dudley's 3-pointer from the top right with 1:29 left.

The Bucks had a final opportunity when an officials review awarded them the ball out of bounds under the basket with 7.1 seconds left. Brandon Knight missed a jumper with two seconds left and Zaza Pachulia missed the tip-in at the buzzer.

CELTICS 90, TRAIL BLAZERS 89

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Evan Turner hit a 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds left and the Boston Celtics over-

came the shorthanded Portland Trail Blazers.

Avery Bradley had 18 points to lead the Celtics, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Jared Sullinger added 17 points and nine rebounds.

Damian Lillard had 21 points and seven assists to lead the Blazers, who have lost five of their last six as they struggle with injuries to their front line.

The Blazers were hit before the game with the news that three-time All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge had torn a ligament in his left thumb and would need surgery. The 6-foot-11 power forward is expected to miss from six to eight weeks. CLIPPERS 123, NETS 84.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Griffin scored 22 of his 24 points in the first half, when the Clippers led by 33 points, and Los Angeles went on to its largest victory ever over the Brooklyn Nets.

J.J. Redick and Jamal Crawford added 17 points each, DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Chris Paul had a season-high 17 assists for the Clippers, who have won nine of their last 12 and three in a row.

With Kevin Garnett resting, the Nets were led by Mason Plumlee with 16 points. Darius Morris and Jerome Jordan had 11 points each, and Jordan had 11 rebounds. They have lost nine of 11.

The Clippers put the game away in the first half, when they shot 66 percent and Jordan had already secured his double-double. □

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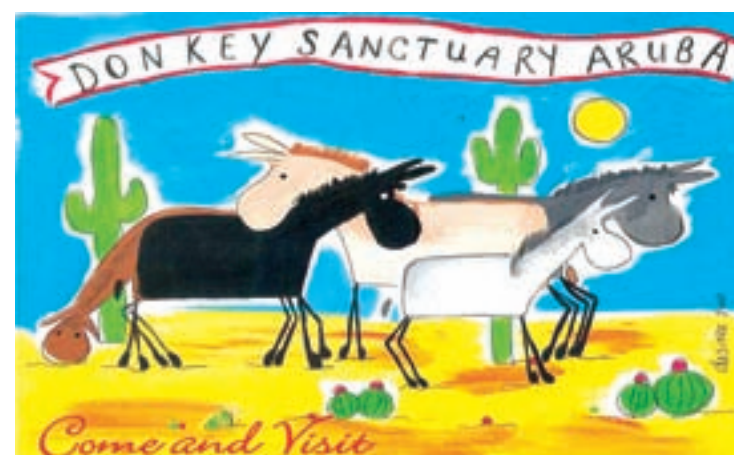
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NFL season

Continued from Page 17

RECORDS/STELLAR PERFORMANCES

Denver's Peyton Manning broke Brett Favre's career record of 508 touchdown passes. Atlanta's Devin Hester broke Deion Sanders' all-time record of 20 total returns for touchdowns. New England's Jonas Gray became the first player since 1921 to rush for four touchdowns in a game — against Indianapolis on Nov. 16. The next week, he was benched after he overslept and was late for practice. The Cleveland Browns rallied from a 28-3 deficit to beat Tennessee 29-28 on Oct. 5, the largest comeback by a road team in NFL history.

New York Giants receiver Odell Beckham pulled down what has been called one of the greatest catches in NFL history against Dallas on Nov. 24, somehow snaring the ball with just three fingers.

Houston defensive lineman J.J. Watt, a favorite to win league MVP, had three of his five tackles for a loss, forced a fumble, recovered a fumble and caught a touchdown pass against Cleveland on Nov. 16.

PLAYER EXPRESSION

Numerous players made headlines for political expressions. Five St. Louis players raised their hands in the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" gesture before a game against Oakland in a show of solidarity with protesters in Ferguson, Missouri, where unarmed Michael Brown was fatally shot by a police officer.

A week later, several players across the league wrote the message "I Can't Breathe" on their equipment, after a grand jury did not charge a New York

police officer in the chokehold death of Eric Garner. Browns receiver Andrew Hawkins wore a T-shirt during warmups before a game against Cincinnati to protest police shootings in Ohio.

Jets center Nick Mangold wore an NYPD hat before a game against New England in honor of two New York police officers who were shot and killed in Brooklyn.

INJURIES

The Arizona Cardinals lost their top two quarterbacks and had a string of other key players go down. The best team in the league in the first half of the season, they limped into the playoffs and lost in the first round.

Receiver Victor Cruz, one of the New York Giants' most popular players, had one of the season's more heartbreaking moments, sobbing into his hands after tearing his patellar tendon in a loss to Philadelphia in October. Kansas City Chiefs safety Eric Berry was diagnosed in December with Hodgkin's lymphoma after doctors discovered a mass in his chest.

Many starting quarterbacks missed games, including Washington's Robert Griffin III, Philadelphia's Nick Foles and Sam Bradford of the Rams.

ADJUDICATION

The NFL was involved in two large lawsuits during the season.

After years of facing individual lawsuits over its handling of concussions, the league reached a class-action settlement of at least \$765 million in 2014 that could affect more than 20,000 former players. Fewer than 1 percent of the retirees covered in the deal opted out and still have the option of suing the league. In December, a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit by 1,300 former

players who had claimed NFL teams acted without regard to players' injuries and doled out painkillers without prescriptions to mask pain and minimize loss of playing time.

COACHES FIRED

NFL coaches went on a wild ride of firings and hirings in 2014.

John Fox and Denver parted ways after the Broncos playoff loss, and he had a job two days later with Chicago, which fired head coach Marc Trestman after a 5-11 season. □



In this Oct. 19, 2014, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning throws his 509th career touchdown pass, breaking Brett Favre's mark, to set the NFL record, during a football game against the San Francisco 49ers in Denver.

Associated Press

Federer out of Aussie Open in 3rd round after loss to Seppi

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Roger Federer is out of the Australian Open, his chances of reaching a 12th consecutive semifinal at Melbourne Park erased in a shocking third-round loss to Andreas Seppi on Friday.

Rafael Nadal is still in contention, rebounding from his five-set, second-round win to beat No. 106-ranked Dudi Sella 6-1, 6-0, 7-5 in a third-round match lasting a little over two hours to reach the fourth round.

No. 2-ranked Federer came into the season's first major in form, winning the warmup tournament at the Brisbane International and aiming for an 18th Grand Slam title. Nadal was coming off a lengthy stint on the sidelines, and hadn't given himself much chance of collecting a 15th major.

Federer had never lost to No. 46-ranked Seppi in 10 previous meetings, but made some uncharacteristic errors including nine double-faults — one to surrender a mini break in the last tiebreaker — in the 6-4, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (5) defeat. Seppi, a 30-year-old Italian who had only advanced beyond the second round once at his nine previous trips to the Australian Open, held his nerve despite some withering winners from Federer, who registered his 1,000th career match win earlier this month in Brisbane.

Federer also had a 4-1 lead in the second-set tiebreak-



Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to Andreas Seppi of Italy during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 23, 2015.

er and let it slide.

"I knew how important that second-set tiebreaker was — clearly that hurt, losing that one," Federer said. "It just broke me to lose that second set. And actually the fourth, I should win it, too. Just a brutal couple of sets to lose there. The end wasn't pretty."

Federer has won the Australian title four times, and had reached the semifinals or better at Melbourne Park

every year since winning the championship for the first time in 2004. This was his earliest exit since 2001, when he also lost in the third round.

"I had to believe that I could win," said Seppi, who said he stuck out his racket and hoped for the best on match point — a forehand that sailed past Federer and landed in the corner. "I was just trying to stay relaxed and just focusing on

every shot and to breathe calm and don't get nervous.

"I think I did pretty well. Very well. I'm very happy I could manage the emotions."

The 33-year-old Federer walked over to Seppi's side of the net to shake his hand after the match, and applauded the crowd before he left the arena with his head lowered. It was only the second time in his last 43 Grand Slam tournaments that the Swiss star failed to at least reach the fourth round.

Seppi will almost certainly get another match on Rod Laver Arena for his fourth-round meeting with Australian teenager Nick Kyrgios, who shrugged off concern over a nosebleed to beat Malek Jaziri of Tunisia 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-1. Kyrgios has form in the fourth round, beating then No. 1-ranked Nadal at that stage at Wimbledon last year.

Nadal faces a fourth-rounder against No. 14 Kevin Anderson, who beat No. 24 Richard Gasquet 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (6).

Three-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray beat Joao Sousa 6-1, 6-1, 7-5 to

set up a fourth-round clash with No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov, who had a tough third-rounder against 2006 Australian Open finalist Marcos Baghdatis before winning 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Seventh-seeded Tomas Berdych needed eight match points before beating Viktor Troicki 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 and will next play Bernard Tomic, who beat fellow Australian Sam Groth 6-4, 7-6 (8), 6-3.

On the women's side, No. 2-ranked Maria Sharapova needed just 61 minutes for her 6-1, 6-1 win over No. 31 Zarina Diyas and will next meet No. 21 Peng Shuai.

Eugenie Bouchard struggled through a scrappy opening set before getting on top in a 7-5, 6-0 third-round win over Caroline Garcia that featured 10 breaks of serve.

"Yeah, I don't think it was the prettiest tennis out there," said Bouchard, who reached the semifinals in her first trip to Melbourne Park last year and went on to make the semifinals or better at two of the other three majors in a breakthrough season.

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Some things to know as NFL investigates Patriots' footballs



In this photo taken Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady throws a pass during the first half of the AFC championship NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

TERESA M. WALKER
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL is very precise about its game and equipment — including the number of footballs prepared for games, how much each must weigh, and who monitors them until kickoff. One rule is very clear: Don't tamper with a football once it has been inspected for use in a game.

The NFL is investigating a report that the New England Patriots used underinflated footballs in the AFC championship game while beating the Indianapolis Colts 45-7. ESPN cited anonymous sources Tuesday night in reporting the league found that 11 of 12 balls were underinflated by 2 pounds per square inch of air.

Here are some things to know about the issue:

CHAIN OF CUSTODY: Footballs are delivered to the officials' dressing room 2 hours, 15 minutes before kickoff. The referee inspects each one, with a pump provided by the home team to adjust air pressure as needed. Footballs are required to have at least 12.5 psi and no more than

13.5 psi. Releasing air can make the football easier to grip, especially when wet. Some quarterbacks prefer a softer ball to control the spin more, while others like more air. A drop in temperature — from the officials' dressing room to an outdoor field — also can cause a football to lose pressure.

THE REF RULES: The referee is the sole judge of whether a ball is fit for play and marks each one approved for the game. The rule says the footballs "shall remain under the supervision of the Referee until they are delivered to the ball attendant just prior to the start of the game." The referee for the game was Walt Anderson. A key question in the investigation is whether the balls improperly passed inspection or were either switched or tampered with after Anderson's inspection. As the home team, the Patriots were responsible for having someone handle the footballs on each sideline.

BALL CONTROL: Footballs are sent directly to teams. Equipment managers can brush them and even use a damp towel to rub off

the oil used to preserve the leather to the preferences of each quarterback. The quarterbacks can even practice with the footballs during a game week as long as the footballs remain in good enough condition to pass the referee's inspection as a new ball. Each team brings at least 12 balls each, so Tom Brady threw footballs provided by the Patriots while Andrew Luck handled footballs brought by the Colts.

POTENTIAL PUNISHMENT: If the NFL finds anyone with the Patriots underinflated the footballs, Commissioner Roger Goodell has wide latitude for punishment. This includes a fine that can be as low as \$25,000 for anyone deemed responsible for tampering with a football, even if it's the head coach. Goodell could strip the team of draft picks, suspend people for "unfair acts," and reverse a game's result or reschedule a game.

PREVIOUS OFFENSE: Goodell fined New England coach Bill Belichick \$500,000 and the Patriots \$250,000 along with stripping the team of a first-

round draft pick in 2007 for having an assistant spy on the New York Jets' defensive signals by using a sideline camera.

FURTHER REVIEW: Steelers president Art Rooney II said Wednesday he expects the competition committee to study whether the rule should change, but he

thinks everyone should use the same balls. "It would seem to be simpler to have one set of balls, which was the case for many years," Rooney said. "The officials brought the balls out and everybody used the same ball, and it seems like that would be an easy answer to this." □

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Not just NFL: Ball-tampering an issue for other sports, too

JOHN LEICESTER

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Scuffed balls, scratched balls, balls switched mid-game. Suspected ball-doctoring isn't only an issue for the NFL, which is investigating a report that the New England Patriots used underinflated footballs in the AFC championship game while beating the Indianapolis Colts 45-7.

A look at dirty tricks in other ball sports:

CRICKET: Ball-tampering is so common in cricket that some of the sport's most famous names have argued it should be legalized.

Spitting sugary saliva on the ball, gouging at its leather covering with fingernails



In this Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015, photo New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady has a ball tossed to him during warmups before the NFL football AFC Championship game against the Indianapolis Colts in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

"The organizers claim that all the balls are the same, but they're not," Wilkinson said. "It's not exactly surprising that I wouldn't want a ball that flies miles from where it's supposed to."

OTHER SPORTS: Badminton's code of conduct bars players from "deliberately tampering with the shuttle to affect its flight or speed."

In table tennis, players have tampered with their rackets to get more grip, spin and speed on the ball, applying banned racket-enhancing substances that go by various names — speed glue, booster or tuner.

Baseball has outlawed "spitballs," coating the ball



In this Dec. 27, 2014, file photo, umpire Richard Kettleborough of England, left, tosses the ball up as he and fellow umpire, Sri Lanka's Kumar Dharmasena, wait for a replacement ball during play on day two of the cricket test match between India and Australia in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

or biting it, picking at its seams, scuffing it with dirt, bottle tops or sandpaper are some of the ploys used by teams over the years to alter the bounce of the ball and flight through the air to make it harder for batsmen to hit.

In a 2010 interview with The Associated Press, former Pakistan bowler Sarfraz Nawaz said some cricketers even "put glue on their trousers and shirt, and then

it goes hard and scuffs the ball" when they rub it against their doctored clothes.

In a more recent example, South Africa's Faf du Plessis was fined half his match fee in 2013 after he was caught on television rubbing the ball on the zipper of his trouser pocket, against Pakistan. The umpires changed the ball and, in an extremely rare punishment, awarded Pak-

istan five penalty runs.

TENNIS: During a change-over at the 2013 Madrid Open, Anabel Medina Garrigues was filmed furiously scuffing new balls by rubbing them hard one after the other against her racket strings, apparently to make them slower and take some sting out of the game of opponent Serena Williams.

Williams still won 6-3, 0-6, 7-5. Asked again this week about the incident, Williams said she didn't realize at the time what the Spaniard was doing.

"At the end of the day, whether the ball was fluffy or slow or fast, (the result) I think really depended on what I was able to do and how I was able to play," she said.

In a statement, the WTA said: "Had the umpire witnessed the scuffing of the balls, the umpire would have instructed the player to stop."

"If the player did not stop, it could have led to a code violation," the WTA added. **RUGBY:** At the 2011 World Cup, England suspended two coaches for illegally switching balls during a 67-3 victory against Romania.

England's kicker, Jonny Wilkinson, was unhappy with what he felt were substandard match balls. England got into such



In this Oct. 1, 2011, file photo, England's Jonny Wilkinson takes a penalty shot at goal during their Rugby World Cup game against Scotland in Auckland, New Zealand.

Associated Press

a fret about his kicking problems that two support coaches swapped balls for two of Wilkinson's place kicks after tries were scored. The coaches were subsequently banned for one match each. Unless it is damaged, the ball used to score a try must also be used for the subsequent kick for two extra points. In his autobiography, Wilkinson claimed the match balls veered right.

with saliva or other substances to alter its flight, since 1920.

In Premier League soccer, supplier Nike provides each team with 120 match balls for each season. One ball is used per game and match officials check before kick-off that it is correctly inflated. Players can ask the referee to look at the ball and have it replaced if they believe it is incorrectly inflated. □

U.S. panel: Planes should have technology so they can be found

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Responding to recent incidents in which airliners vanished, U.S. accident investigators recommended Thursday that all passenger planes making long flights over water carry improved technology that will allow them to be found more readily in the event of a crash. Prompted in part by the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight 370 and its 239 passengers and crew last March, the National Transportation Safety Board said one way that could be accomplished is with tamper-resistant transmitters that send a plane's location minute by minute via satellite.

It also asked that the government require that planes carry low-frequency underwater beacons whose signals are more easily detected by search vessels. And it wants them to have longer-lasting batteries that can function for at least 90 days after a crash, instead of the 30 days currently required.

The board also asked the government to require that planes be equipped with cockpit video recorders, and that all of the planes' recorders — including the flight data and voice recorders known as "black boxes" — be designed so they cannot be disabled by the flight crew.

But even with such technologies, black boxes trapped under thousands of feet of water can be difficult to find and retrieve. The board suggested that black boxes could be made ejectable, so they would float on the surface with a locator beacon.

Another possibility would be to require that planes, just before crashing, transmit cru-

cial data, including airspeed, altitude, pitch and whether the engines were operating.

Many airliners already have flight-tracking devices. The Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777,

station via satellite. But the airline wasn't paying for that service when the plane disap-

cation that it was deliberately tampered with.

Air France Flight 447, which crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on June 1, 2009, killing 228 passengers and crew, also had such a system, and it was in use. However, it was configured to report the plane's position once every 10 minutes. Given the plane's speed and altitude, this resulted in a search area of 40 nautical miles from its last reported position.

"Such a large area made the search much more challenging," the board said in a letter to the FAA. If the plane had reported its position every minute, the search area could have been reduced to a 6-nautical-mile radius, which is the board's aim. Even though some Flight 447 wreckage was discovered within days, it took nearly two years before Flight 447's black boxes were recovered. In 2011, Air France modified its data-link communications systems on certain long-haul planes to report their position every minute. □



In this March 28, 2014 file photo, reporters are seated at a table with a sample flight recorder at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Laboratory in Washington.

Associated Press

Joe Kolly, NTSB's director of research and engineering, said it is possible to automatically send such information if something potentially catastrophic goes wrong with the plane.

While the board said the technology is available, cost may be a barrier to its recommendations. Missing planes are rare, and none of the recent ocean crashes in which planes were hard to find involved U.S. airliners. The Federal Aviation Administration often has a hard time justifying new regulations unless it can show that the value of saved lives outweighs the cost to the industry.

The board's recommendations also far exceed industry-backed recommendations that are expected to be debated next month at a meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization, a United Nations agency, in Montreal.

which remains missing, was equipped with a digital data-link system that can be configured to automatically report aircraft position periodically to a ground

peared. Still, the equipment was emitting a signal that should have allowed authorities to track the plane's flight path until it suddenly stopped, raising suspi-

Denmark likely to ban ridesharing service Uber

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Two months after the ride-hailing app Uber was introduced in Denmark, the country's transport minister has said the service likely will be banned because it violates Danish law.

Magnus Heunicke says the concept of car drivers acting like taxi chauffeurs and communicating with potential customers via a mobile application was "contrary ... to what we can be allowed in Denmark."

Heunicke said Thursday he was not opposed to the idea of the service but that Denmark has "clear requirements" for ensuring consumer safety and the training of employees.



A London taxi driver uses a bus lane on a bridge over the river Thames in central London, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015.

Associated Press

A formal ban is subject to the outcome of a police investigation, instigated by the Danish Transport Authority which reported it to

the police after the service opened in November.

Uber has been banned in several countries and cities in Europe. □

Anheuser-Busch buying Elysian Brewing

SARAH SELL
AP Business Writer

Anheuser-Busch is buying Seattle's Elysian Brewing Co., expanding further its collection of craft brewers. The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed Friday.

Anheuser-Busch is the U.S. arm of Anheuser-Busch In-Bev SA, a Belgian company that is the world's largest brewer.

The company, which makes Budweiser and Bud Light, has been combatting soft sales by buying up increasingly popular craft brewers.

While nationwide beer

sales declined 1.9 percent in 2013, craft beer sales rose 17.2 percent, according to the Brewers Association, which represents craft brewers.

Anheuser-Busch announced in November that it was buying 10 Barrel Brewing of Oregon, raising the ire of many of its fans. That follows the purchase of Blue Point Brewing Co. on Long Island, New York, earlier in the year.

It bought Goose Island Beer Co. in Chicago in 2011. In-Bev also has a one-third share in a Northwest group that produces Red Hook, Widmer and Kona beers.

Anheuser-Busch and Elysian say the deal will bring the brewer's popular beers — most notably Immortal IPA — to a larger audience. The deal includes Elysian's brewery business and its four Seattle brewpubs. It is expected to close by the end of the first quarter.

"Throughout our journey we've been focused on brewing a portfolio of both classic and groundbreaking beers and supporting innovation and camaraderie in the beer industry," Dick Cantwell, Elysian co-founder and head brewer said. "By joining with Anheuser-Busch we'll be able to take

the next steps to bring that energy and commitment to a larger audience."

Elysian was founded in 1995 by Cantwell with partners Joe Bisacca and David Buhler, who will stay on at Elysian following the acquisition.

The company is now the fastest-growing brewery in Washington state. It sold more than 50,000 barrels of beer in 2014, with Immortal IPA accounting for more than a quarter of the company's total volume. Its beer is distributed in 11 states in the U.S. as well as Canada, Taiwan, Australia and Japan.

GE earnings rise despite lower oil price headwinds

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — General Electric Co. posted higher revenue and net income for the fourth quarter, but was held back from even better results by a sputtering performance from its expanding oil and gas division. The company calmed investors by maintaining its guidance for its 2015 profit, despite the low oil prices that are hurting its oil and gas operations and a stronger dollar that is hurting exports.

"Everybody's been freaked out, everyone expected a big crumble on the guidance, but it didn't happen," said Nicholas Heyman, an analyst at William Blair.

On Friday GE reported net income of \$5.15 billion, up from \$3.21 billion in the same quarter last year. Adjusting to remove the effect of one-time items, the company reported a 4 percent earnings gain, to \$5.64 billion.

The company earned 51 cents per share, up from 32 cents a year ago. On an adjusted basis, the company earned 56 cents a share, a penny more than analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research expected, in average.

Revenue rose 4 percent to \$42 billion in the period but fell short of the \$42.4 billion expected by analysts, according to Zacks.

GE reported progress in trimming expenses and increasing profit margins as it works to reshape itself into a more focused industrial conglomerate. GE has been shrinking its banking division and shedding other operations, while acquiring other industrial companies. It has not helped the performance of its share price, however. Analysts say that's partly because GE is having trouble showing growth while it reduces its enormous banking division, and because investors have been worried about economic conditions around the world.

Stocks close down, snapping 4-day winning streak

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A batch of mixed earnings reports Friday helped push the stock market to its first day of losses this week.

Shares of tissue and diaper maker Kimberly-Clark dropped after the company's earnings fell short of expectations and it gave a disappointing outlook. Package-delivery service UPS plunged after it cut its earnings forecast. Strong growth in company earnings have underpinned a bull run in stocks that has stretched for nearly six years. Earnings are still expected to keep rising, but the pace of growth is slowing, and investors are looking for signs that sales are up.

"Our view is that the market is poised to have a reset to reflect what we think is a lower growth environment," said James Abate, chief investment officer of Centre Funds, an asset management company.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11.33 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,051.82. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 141.38 points, or 0.8 percent, to 17,672.60. The Nasdaq composite bucked the trend, gaining 7.48 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,757.88. Despite the fall, stocks ended with their first weekly



Euronav CEO Paddy Rodgers rings a ceremonial bell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange as his company's stock begins trading, Friday, Jan. 23, 2015. Based in Belgium, Euronav is a tanker company engaged in the ocean transportation and storage of crude oil.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

gain of the year.

Global stocks rose sharply on Thursday after the European Central Bank announced that it would buy 60 billion euros (\$67 billion) of government and corporate bonds each month at least through September 2016. The 1.1 trillion euro program signals the willingness of the ECB to boost the economies in the 19-nation euro currency alliance. The ECB's stimulus "was a big positive not just for Europe, but also the U.S.," said Jerry Braakman, chief investment officer of First American Trust, in Santa Ana, California.

Stocks have wavered since the start of the year on signs that growth outside of the U.S. was slowing. Many investors worried that a pronounced slowdown would eventually curb the U.S. economic recovery.

"Anything that can stem the contagion and stop the malaise from spilling over ... that allows our bull market to continue," Braakman said.

For the week, the S&P 500 edged up 1.6 percent while the Dow rose 0.9 percent. But on Friday, earnings from some big-name companies weighed down the market. Kimberly-Clark reported a

fourth-quarter loss of \$83 million. The company also forecast weaker sales in 2015. The stock dropped \$7.33, or 6.2 percent, to \$111.65.

UPS said it was hurt by the huge cost of guaranteeing punctual deliveries over the holidays. That forced the shipping company to cut its outlook for the year. UPS hired more workers and boosted capacity at its facilities during the busy holiday season to avoid a repeat of 2013, when shippers struggled with a deluge of orders. Its stock slumped \$11.32, or 10 percent, to \$102.93.

Ford to take \$800M 4Q charge due to Venezuela woes

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Ford says it will take an \$800 million charge in the fourth quarter because of exchange rate problems between the Venezuelan bolivar and the U.S. dollar. The company says the charge will cut fourth-quarter net income by \$700 million, after deferred tax ben-

efits. But the automaker still expects a full-year pretax profit of \$6 billion when it reports 2014 earnings Thursday. In September, Ford cut its full-year pretax profit forecast to \$6 billion. That's down from \$8.6 billion in 2013. Ford says in a regulatory filing that the company can no longer exchange boli-

vars to dollars due to Venezuelan currency exchange controls. The company says the controls have limited auto parts availability and have cut into normal production. But Ford says it will continue operations there for the foreseeable future. The Dearborn, Michigan, automaker has had operations in Venezuela for 53 years.

The company's filing says its financial results in the future won't include its Venezuelan operations. Ford plans to record cash and recognize income from the country when it is paid for parts. Ford says it will work with Venezuelan government agencies "to ensure they understand our Venezuelan operations' business needs and potential

production opportunities." In a note to investors, Citi analyst Itay Michaeli questioned whether General Motors would make a similar move. A GM spokesman would not comment on the matter. Ford's move to a cost method of accounting in Venezuela eliminates currency volatility that hurt Ford's results last year, Michaeli wrote. □

Box's stock soars more than 70 percent in Wall Street debut

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Box's shares soared more than 70 percent in their stock market debut Friday despite the online storage provider's decade-long history of losses, a showing that may encourage more unprofitable technology startups to go public this year. The start on the New York Stock Exchange came after Box Inc. sold 12.5 million shares for \$14 apiece in a delayed IPO that raised \$175 million. That represented about a 10 percent stake in the company. Box's stock gained \$9.99 to \$23.99 in afternoon trading to give the company a market value of \$2.9 billion. Although Box focuses on selling online storage services companies and government agencies, the company also offers free, bare-bones accounts to consumers. All told, 32 million people have Box accounts. The wide usage of Box's

service probably helped drum up more interest in the company's initial public offering, according to Sam Hamadeh, who runs

stock price, Hamadeh said. "What you are seeing is a lot of buying by doctors, lawyers and dentists who just know Box's name

Since college dropout Aaron Levie founded Box with his friend Dylan Smith in 2005, Box has accumulated \$483 million in unin-

it won't be making money anytime soon.

Concerns about Box's shaky finances contributed to the company's decision to postpone its IPO last July. Investors now seem more intrigued with Box's pioneering role in online storage — part of a phenomenon known as cloud computing. The demand to store documents, photos and other digital content in remote data centers so the material can be accessed on an Internet-connected device has been steadily rising as more people rely on smartphones and tablets for their computing needs. "The leaders in this new environment are being created right now, and there are a lot of investors that recognize that," Levie, 30, said in a Friday interview. Box is facing intense competition from much-larger companies, including Google Inc., Microsoft Corp., and Amazon.com Inc., as well as a better-known online storage service, Dropbox. □



Box, Inc. Chairman, CEO & co-founder Aaron Levie, second from right, gets a high-five during opening bell ceremonies to mark the company's IPO at the New York Stock Exchange Friday, Jan. 23, 2015. Box Inc. shares soared more than 70 percent in their stock market debut, after the online storage provider raised \$175 million in its initial public offering. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

PrivCo, a firm that tracks startups. "I think this is going to be a short-term pop" in Box's

and didn't pay any attention to the financials. And the financials are horrendous."

errupted losses, according to its IPO filing. The Los Altos, California, company also warned investors that

UPS takes a hit during the holidays, cuts outlook

NEW YORK (AP) — UPS spent heavily to avoid last year's debacle over the holidays, when an unexpected crush of last-minute shipping and terrible weather led millions of late deliveries.

It succeeded in making customers happy, but it cost the company. UPS cut its outlook for the year Friday and warned that fourth-quarter earnings would come in well below Wall Street expecta-

tions. Shares tumbled 10 percent and UPS pulled down rival FedEx as well, which quickly sent out a news release sticking by its full-year outlook. Its shares slide 2 percent. "UPS invested heavily to ensure we would provide excellent service during peak when deliveries more than double," said CEO David Abney. "Though customers enjoyed high quality service, it came at a cost to UPS."

In addition to the thousands of temporary hires for the holiday season, UPS spent millions to improve volume forecasting, network visibility, package status tracking and on improving its communications with customers. The company forecast an 11 percent increase compared with the huge rush the previous year, but it appeared to be ready. Yet the cost to UPS shows how difficult logistics have become as shopping hab-

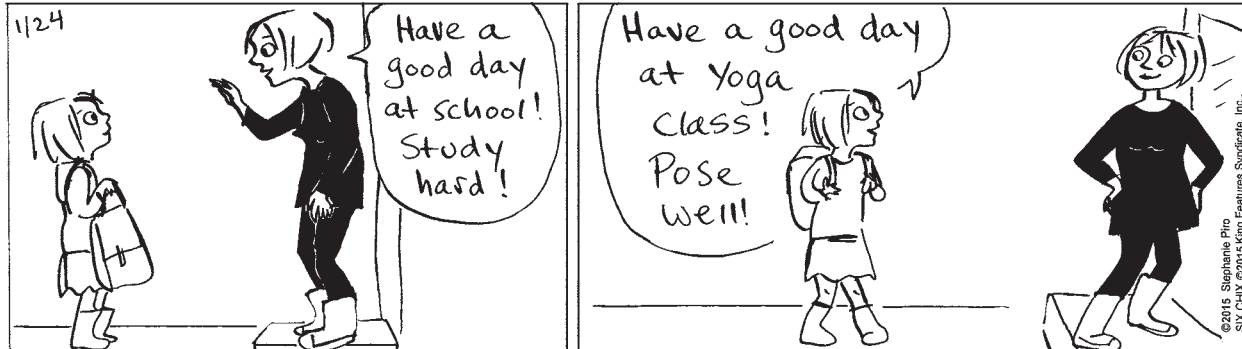
its of Americans change. The company added capacity to prepare for the "extreme spike" in volume on Cyber Monday and on Dec. 22, which is a peak delivery day before Christmas. However, the company said Friday that demand fell more significantly than expected on other days, meaning that as UPS hit the gas, its tires began to spin. An ongoing labor dispute between longshoremen and shipping lines on the

West Coast has also led to additional difficulties in shipping for both UPS and FedEx. UPS said Friday that it will cut costs and change its pricing strategy during the peak shipping season. It now expects 2014 earnings of \$4.75 per share, down from its previous forecast of between \$4.90 per share and \$5 per share. Industry analysts had been looking for earnings of \$4.96 per share, according to FactSet. □

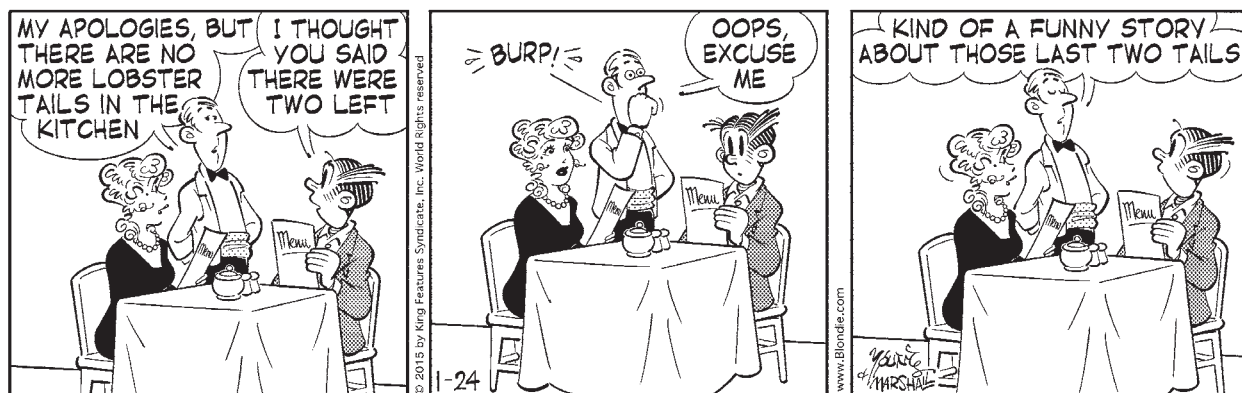
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



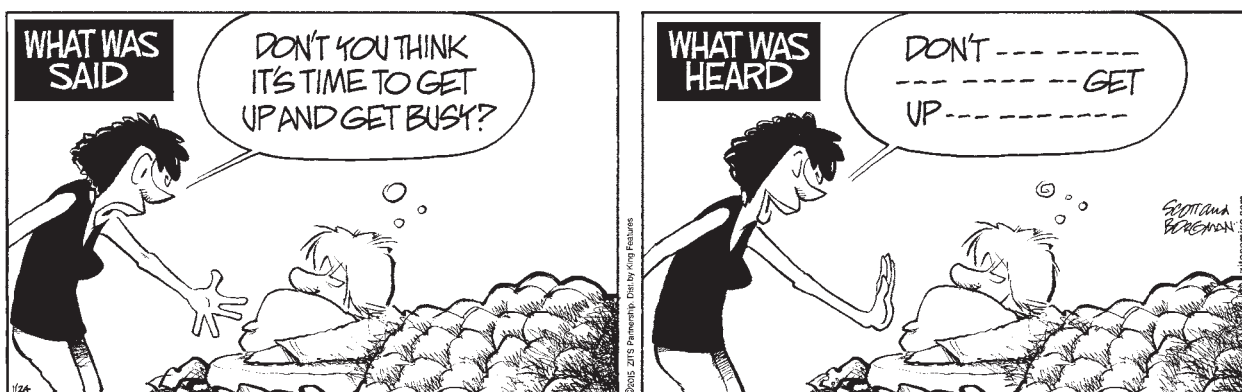
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			7	2	1		6	
5						9		3
							1	
3				9		7		
		1				2		
		8		6				5
	3							
6		9						4
	4		5	1	7			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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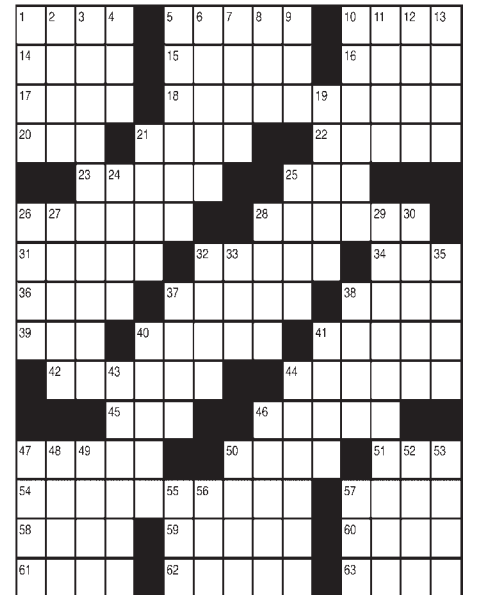
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	8	1	7	2	6	9	3	5
9	3	2	1	5	4	6	8	7
5	7	6	9	3	8	2	4	1
7	6	8	5	1	2	3	9	4
2	4	9	3	6	7	5	1	8
3	1	5	8	4	9	7	6	2
8	5	3	2	9	1	4	7	6
6	9	7	4	8	5	1	2	3
1	2	4	6	7	3	8	5	9

ACROSS

- Milk producers
- As a hornet
- Con game
- Above
- Excuse
- Rubber tube
- Spike & Bruce
- Del Mar and Pimlico
- Conclusion
- back; return
- Pile up
- Small vibrating music maker
- Rush
- Taipei's land
- Male goose
- Refueling ship
- Street uprisings
- Brewer's tub
- Misfortunes
- Melodies
- Nickname for Elizabeth
- Peg for Palmer
- Malt shop orders
- "Ave"
- Bleak; dismal
- Grand National Park
- Feel remorseful about
- Most terrible
- Frequently
- up; absorb
- Actor Linden
- Potentially dangerous
- Make smooth
- Due follower
- Grown-up
- Individuals
- Party bowlful
- Shapes; forms
- Benedict; fancy breakfast



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/24/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

CRY	GLADE	STIR
BEES	REBEL	IOTA
SANK	AMUSE	TRIP
PSYCHOTIC	CENT	
LOAN	TWO	
ASWARM	FOREMOST	
SCORE	HABIT	DUO
KOOK	MIMIC	DIET
END	JADES	CRUDE
DESERVED	DOOMED	
USE	BUMP	
CLOG	RIVERBOAT	
RAVE	IRATE	UTAH
OVEN	COSTS	TOME
CARE	KNEES	PEN

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1/24/15

DOWN

- Nat King
- Baker's need
- Roundup, e.g.
- Dads of Jrs.
- Dark red
- Remembered Texas mission

- Yachtzee cubes
- Lincoln, to friends
- Take a chair
- Humiliated
- Comic actress Imogene
- Invites
- Clutter
- cats and dogs; pours
- Title for former Russian rulers
- Fills with sublime wonder
- Sombreros
- "Nothing"; "Piece of cake!"
- Had a bug
- away; leaves
- "The works"
- Numerical comparison
- Mr. Valentino
- nutshell; very briefly
- Other; besides

- Ripped
- Forbids
- Steam bath
- Gospel writer
- Builds
- Seashores
- "Who have I thunk it?"
- Unlocked
- German señora
- Examination
- Aretha's music
- Costs an arm and
- Not as much
- Male sheep
- Wedding words
- Enemy

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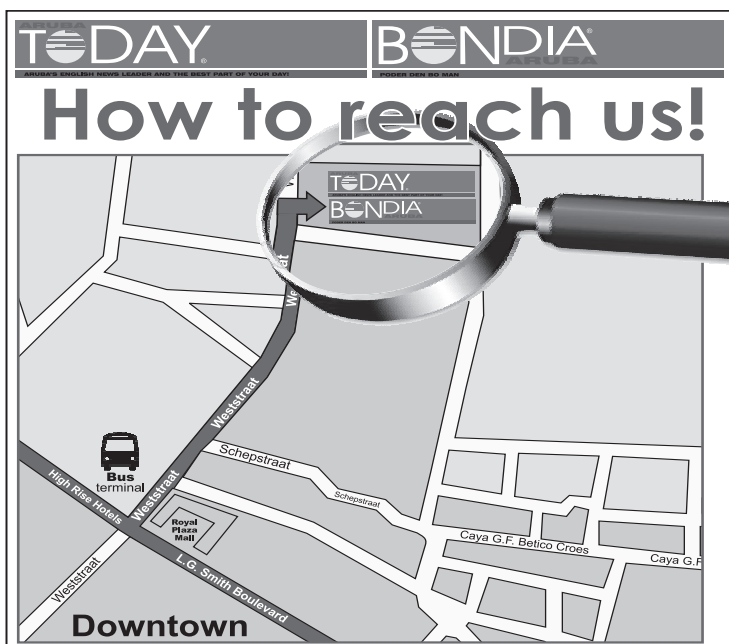
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NASA spacecraft almost to Pluto: Smile for the camera!

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

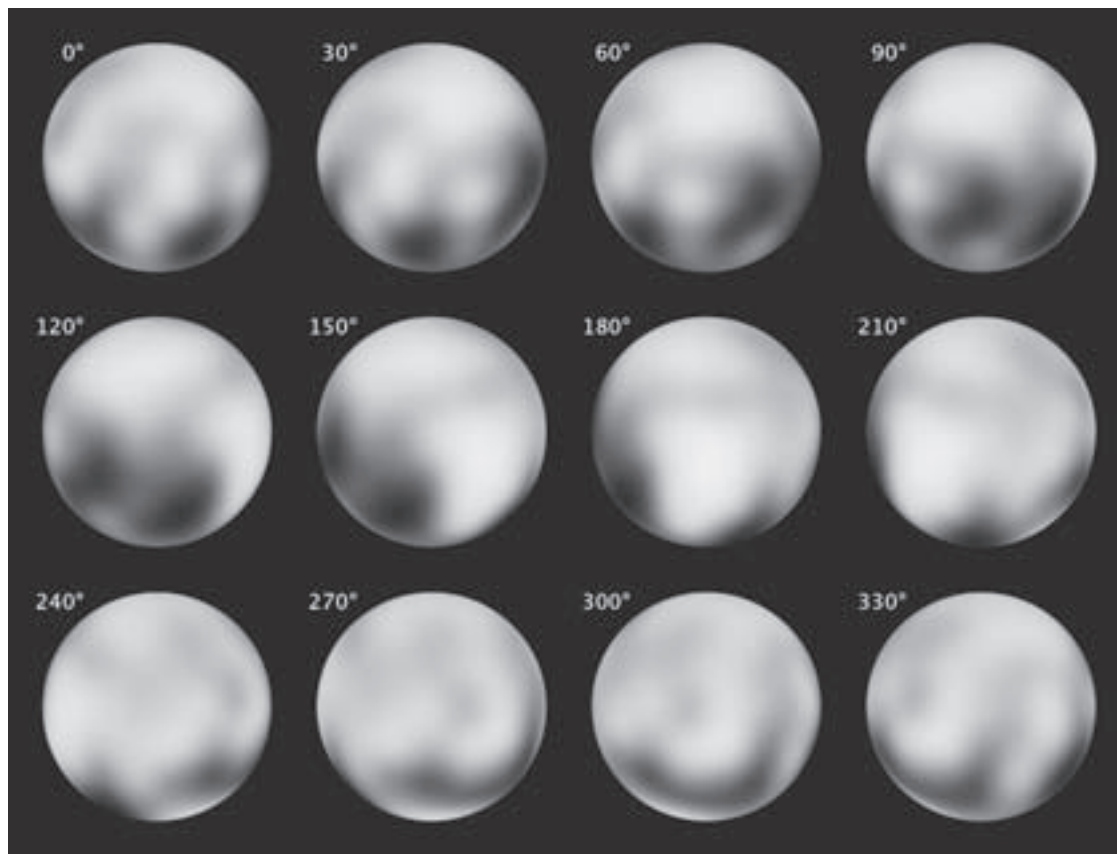
(AP) — NASA's New Horizons spacecraft has traveled 3 billion miles (5 billion kilometers) and is nearing the end of its nine-year journey to Pluto. Sunday, it begins photographing the mysterious, unexplored, icy world once deemed a planet.

The first pictures will reveal little more than bright dots — New Horizons is still more than 100 million miles (160 million kilometers) from Pluto. But the images, taken against star fields, will help scientists gauge the remaining distance and keep the baby grand piano-sized robot on track for a July flyby.

It is humanity's first trip to Pluto, and scientists are eager to start exploring.

"New Horizons has been a mission of delayed gratification in many respects, and it's finally happening now," said project scientist Hal Weaver of Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory.

"It's going to be a sprint for the next seven months, basically, to the finish line," he said Friday. "We can't wait to turn Pluto into a real world, instead of just a little pixelated blob."



This combination of images made by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope in 2002 and 2003 shows Pluto at different angles. Associated Press

Launched from Cape Canaveral in January 2006 on a \$700 million mission, New Horizons awoke from its last hibernation period early last month. Flight controllers have spent the past several weeks getting the spacecraft ready for the final but most important leg of its journey.

"We have been working on this project, some people, for over a quarter of their careers, to make this mis-

sion happen," said project manager Glen Fountain of the Applied Physics Lab, "and now we're about to hit the mother lode."

The spacecraft's long-range reconnaissance imager will take hundreds of pictures of Pluto over the coming months. It snapped pictures last summer, before going into hibernation, but these new ones should be considerably brighter. It will be a

few days before the new images are beamed back to Earth; scientists expect to release them publicly in early February.

By May, New Horizons' photos should equal and then surpass the ones taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, with pictures of the plutoid and its moons improving with each passing day.

The real payoff will come when New Horizons flies by

Pluto on July 14 at a distance of 7,700 miles (12,400 kilometers) and speed of nearly 31,000 mph. (50,000 kph) It will whip past Charon, Pluto's largest moon, from 18,000 miles (29,000 kilometers) out.

Scientists have no idea, really, what Pluto looks like way out in the Kuiper Belt beyond Neptune's orbit, home to little icy objects galore.

Pluto is the biggest object in the Kuiper Belt. Together with mega-moon, Charon, roughly half Pluto's size, the two orbs could fit inside the United States with room to spare. Five moons have been found so far around Pluto. More could be lurking out there, awaiting discovery by New Horizons.

The Applied Physics Lab designed and built New Horizons, and is now managing the mission for NASA. Pluto was still officially a planet, No. 9 in the solar system lineup, when New Horizons departed Earth. It was the only planet in our solar system yet to be explored. But seven months later, the International Astronomical Union stripped Pluto of its planethood, classifying it instead as a dwarf planet. Later came the term, plutoid. □

Developer has plans to preserve Westinghouse atom smasher

FOREST HILLS, Pennsylvania

(AP) — A developer has knocked over the Westinghouse atom smasher east of Pittsburgh but plans to preserve the structure no matter what happens to the property it was on.

The brick building at the base of the five-story, light-bulb-shaped atom smasher was in too much disrepair to save, said property owner Gary Silversmith of Washington, D.C.

"But we are going to es-

tablish a new concrete base for it, and keep it at the site, and have the bulb repainted, including the 'W' for Westinghouse," Silversmith said. "I think this is an iconic piece of history." Westinghouse Electric Corporation completed the atom smasher in 1937 as the nation's first industrial nuclear generator. Silversmith's investment company bought the property from Westinghouse parent, CBS Corp., in 2013.

The atom smasher was so far ahead of its time that when Westinghouse decided to build it in 1936, it would be another three years before the discovery of nuclear fission revealed the possibilities of nuclear power.

Westinghouse physicists created nuclear reactions by bombarding target atoms with high-energy particles. They accelerated those particles down a vacuum tube from the top

of the structure to a pressure vessel 47 feet (14 meters) below.

Research done at the Forest Hills site led to the discovery of the photo-fission of uranium, part of the process involved in the generation of nuclear power, according to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The atom smasher was deactivated in 1958.

Silversmith may develop residences or rental stor-

age units on the property, but said he'll keep the atom smasher intact because of its historical significance.

Silversmith — and before him, CBS parent Viacom — has tried to donate the structure to the Smithsonian Institution, as well as the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center and the Carnegie Science, both in Pittsburgh, but were refused because of the unit's size. □

Obama seeks broader audience through YouTube personalities

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama picked three of the most popular YouTube content creators for an interview Thursday, hoping to reach an audience typically not tuned to the daily give and take of Washington and its politics. After all, these were YouTube personalities with hits such as “The five worst places to vomit,” and “My push-up bra will help me get my man.” But the weirdness, the limit-pushing, the cuteness that has contributed to the questioners’ success in social media was not much in evidence. Instead, Obama encountered fairly mundane questions about current affairs — from North Korea to terrorism, to marijuana laws to police and race relations. If there were viral moments, they came during his session with GloZell Green, a



President Barack Obama speaks during a visit to the University of Kansas Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, in Lawrence, Kansas. Associated Press

popular YouTube fixture known for her extreme acts like eating a ladle full of cinnamon.

She offered the president three samples of her trademark green lipstick as gifts for his daughters — and

for the woman she called Obama’s “first wife.” “You know something I don’t?” Obama cracked

before Green corrected herself and referred to Michelle Obama as “first lady.”

Bethany Mota, who has found success pitching advice to young people, asked Obama what super power he would fancy. Obama allowed as to how flying would be “pretty cool.” But then he amended, declaring that speaking any language would be his ideal power. “I don’t think it would make a really good movie,” he conceded.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the approach aimed to put Obama in touch with “particularly popular YouTube creators.”

Green, Mota and the third questioner, Hank Green, routinely draw hundreds of thousands of viewers to their YouTube videos.

At its peak, though, the Obama session drew slightly more than 80,000 viewers. □

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George Lucas hopes 'Strange Magic' will appeal to all ages

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

George Lucas has been toying around with "Strange Magic" for almost 15 years. The animated musical fantasy about a fairy kingdom and true love, in theaters Friday, began as a pet project while he was working on the "Star Wars" prequels. Lucas started thinking about audiences and figured that if he'd created "Star Wars" as a "mythological adventure for 12-year-old boys," maybe he could do one for 12-year-old girls.

Before female fans of "Star Wars" take up arms, though, Lucas knows "Star Wars" isn't exclusively for boys, or even just kids. He hopes "Strange Magic" will appeal to all ages and genders.

The story's heroine, Marianne (voiced by Evan Rachel Wood), is a feisty warrior princess who is not dissimilar to Leia.

"The problem is the mind of George Lucas is not that big," said Lucas. "I have a tendency to write the same characters over and over again."

To tell the story, Lucas envisioned a whimsical, animated jukebox confection where pop lyrics would be the driving narrative force. Just like in his retro love letter of a film "American Graffiti," he would use pre-existing songs.

But the fun, breezy concept



Alan Cumming, from left, Evan Rachel Wood and George Lucas attend a special screening of "Strange Magic" hosted by The Cinema Society and Lucasfilm on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, in New York. Associated Press

turned into a decade-long headache. Music rights costs aside (Lucas realized that he would not be able to afford to populate an entire movie with Beatles songs), telling a coherent story through a complex mixtape spanning decades and genres proved to be an incredible challenge.

"Every song was a scene on the storyboard. If you take out one song then you probably have to take out two or three scenes because that story might not track anymore. It's a really complex Rubik's Cube," Lucas said.

Then he realized that his first cut was three hours.

"I knew I overdid it," he

laughed.

He brought on Marius de Vries, the music director on "Moulin Rouge," to help assemble the complex tapestry of song and story, as well as director Gary Rydstrom, who wrote the screenplay with David Berenbaum and Irene Mecchi.

The final product includes anthems as diverse as

"Can't Help Falling in Love," "Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You)," "Wild Thing" and, of course, "Strange Magic," all of which are sung by the film's actors, including Kristin Chenoweth, Maya Rudolph, Alan Cumming and Sam Palladio.

The songs weren't the only issue, though. His story, partly inspired by William Shake-

speare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," seemed like a bad idea to some, too, he said.

It's essentially a "Beauty and the Beast" story where the beast doesn't turn into a handsome prince in the end. That meant making the bad guy ugly, "but not so ugly that he couldn't change into something loveable," said Lucas.

For Lucas, the message is about finding love in unexpected places.

Beyond "Strange Magic," Lucas insists that he doesn't have any other 15-year passion projects sitting on his desk at the moment, but he is going back to his experimental roots, playing around with techniques to see if he can tell stories in a different way.

Looming large, though, is the seventh iteration of "Star Wars," which hits theaters Dec. 18.

Lucas isn't involved in the production of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." He ceded those rights when he sold Lucasfilm Ltd. to The Walt Disney Co. for \$4 billion in 2012. □

Pacino: If I wasn't an actor I'd probably be slinging hash

LAURI NEFF

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Al Pacino has been acting for nearly half a century and during that time, he says he's never really considered what other job he might be suited for — until now.

Pacino says he thinks he'd be a good short order cook.

He does have experience. Pacino played an ex-con who works in a diner in the 1991 film "Frankie and Johnny," which was shot in a working eatery. "I could do this, be a short order cook," he remembers thinking at the time.

In a recent interview to promote his new film "The Humbling," about an aging actor who is questioning his career, Pacino said being a cook was "really fun to be for the lunch hour or two when you're



This photo provided by courtesy of Alchemy shows Al Pacino as Simon Axler in the film, "The Humbling." The movie, directed by Barry Levinson, debuts in theaters Friday, Jan. 23, 2015.

Associated Press

working back there; very creative and the time just flies by."

The actor notes he never finished high school or went to college and says he "got educated through acting," picking up skills from playing doctors, lawyers, and a cook. He says that on the diner

shoot, his celebrity status gained him "access."

"These guys would just let me sit in the luncheonette," Pacino says. "I'd be with them through the lunches and I would study them by just doing it and watching, waiting and hoping I'd absorb something." □

Clive Davis to be honored with Hasty Pudding award

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) —

Music producer and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Clive Davis is this year's winner of the highest honor awarded by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Institute of 1770.

Davis will receive the Order of the Golden Sphinx award at a gala in New York City on April 13. The institute announced the award Wednesday.

Davis says in a statement that he's thrilled to be re-

ceiving the award, which recognizes extraordinary contributions to the performing arts.

A five-time Grammy winner, Davis has worked with a wide range of artists, from Janis Joplin and Billy Joel to Whitney Houston and Alicia Keys.

The institute includes the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, which has chosen Chris Pratt as its 2015 Man of the Year and Amy Poehler as its Woman of the Year. □

Support Our Students



DAVID BROOKS
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All college commencements are happy, but community college commencements are the happiest of all. Many of the graduates are the first in their extended family to have earned degrees. When their name is read, big cheering sections erupt with horns and roars from the stands. Many students are older; you'll see 50- or 60-year-old women grasping their diplomas awash in happy tears. The graduates often know exactly where they're going to work; they walk with an extra sense of security as they head off campus.

These bright days serve as evidence that America can live up to its dream of social mobility, that there is hope at a time when the ladder upward seems creaky and inadequate.

So when President Barack Obama unveils his community college plan in the State of the Union address Tuesday night, it represents an opportunity - an opportunity to create days like that for more students.

Obama's headline idea is to make community college free. It would reduce two years of tuition costs to zero for students with decent grades and who graduate within three years.

The evidence from a similar program in Tennessee suggests that the simple free label has an important psychological effect. Enrollment there surged when high school students learned that they could go to community college for nothing.

The problem is that getting students to enroll is neither hard nor important. The important task is to help students graduate. Community college dropout rates now hover somewhere between 66 and 80 percent.

Spending \$60 billion over 10 years to make community college free will do little to reduce that. In the first place, community college is already free for most poor and working-class students who qualify for Pell grants and other aid. In 2012, 38 percent of community college students had their tuition covered entirely by grant aid, and an additional 33 percent had fees of less than \$1,000.

The Obama plan would largely be a subsidy for the middle- and upper-middle-class students who are now paying tuition and who could afford to pay it in the years ahead.

The smart thing to do would be to scrap the Obama tuition plan. Students who go to com-

munity college free now have tragically high dropout rates. The \$60 billion could then be spent on things that are mentioned in Obama's proposal - but not prioritized or fleshed out - which would actually increase graduation rates.

First, you'd focus on living expenses. Tuition represents only a fifth of the costs of community college life. The bulk is textbooks, housing, transportation and so on. Students often have to take on full-time or near-full-time jobs to cover the costs, and, once they do that, they're much more likely to lose touch with college. You'd subsidize guidance counselors and mentors. Community colleges are not sticky places. Many students don't have intimate relationships with anyone who can guide them through the maze of registration, who might help bond them to campus.

You'd figure out the remedial education mess. Half of all community college students arrive unprepared for college work. Remedial courses are supposed to bring them up to speed, but it's not clear they work, so some states are dropping remediation, which could leave even more students at sea.

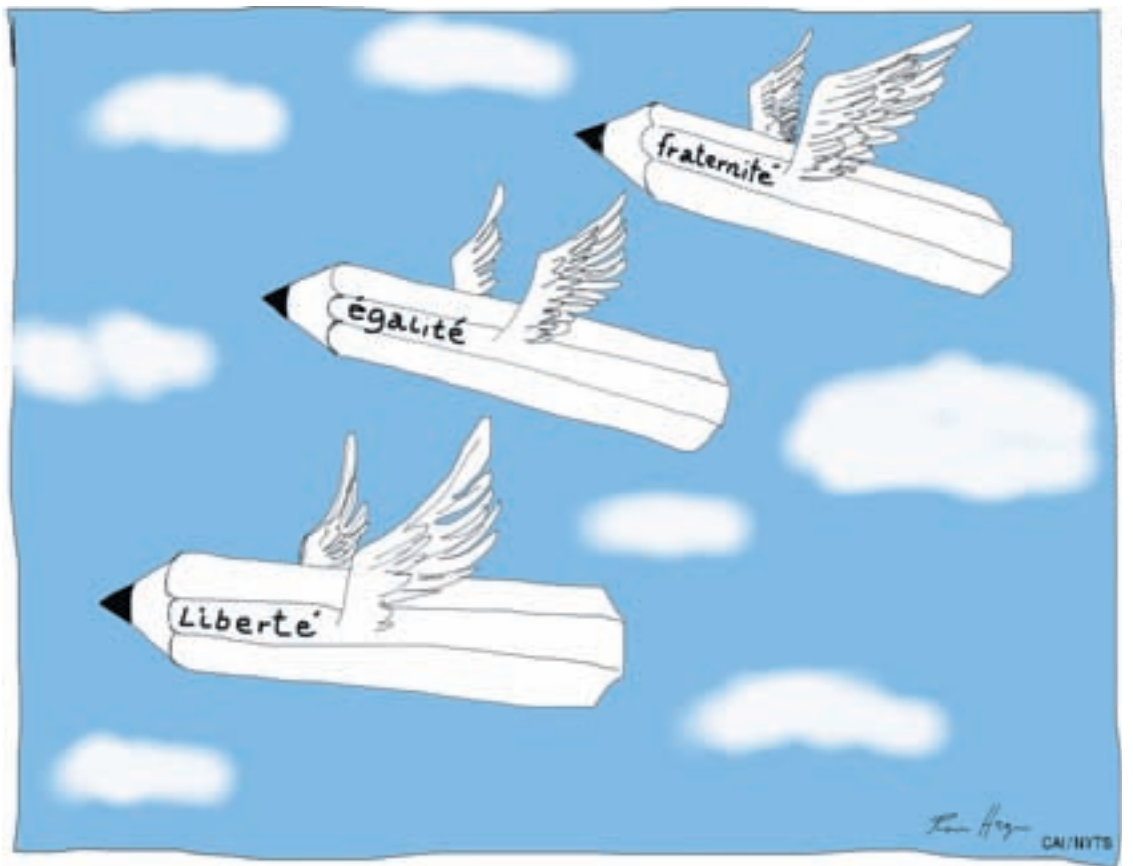
You'd focus on child care. A quarter of college students nationwide have dependent children. Even more students at community colleges do. Less than half of community colleges now have any day care facilities. Many students drop out because something happens at home and there's no one to take care of the kids.

In short, you wouldn't write government checks for tuition. You'd strengthen structures around the schools. You'd focus on the lived environment of actual students and create relationships and cushions to help them thrive.

We've had two generations of human capital policies. Human Capital 1.0 was designed to give people access to schools and other facilities. It was based on the 1970s liberal orthodoxy that poor people just need more money, that the government could write checks and mobility will improve.

Human Capital 2.0 is designed to help people not just enroll but to complete school and thrive. It's based on a much more sophisticated understanding of how people actually live, on the importance of social capital, on the difficulty of living in disorganized circumstances. The new research emphasizes noncognitive skills - motivation, grit and attachment - and how to use policy levers to boost these things.

The tuition piece of the Obama proposal is Human Capital 1.0. It is locked in 1970s liberal orthodoxy. Congress should take the proposal, scrap it and rededicate the money toward programs that will actually boost completion, that will surround colleges, students and their families with supporting structures. We don't need another program that will lure students into colleges only to have them struggle and drop out. □



A Detainee's Diary



JOE NOCERA
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Last week, several Republican senators, including John McCain, called on President Barack Obama to stop releasing detainees from the prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Their argument was that after the terror attacks in Paris, the 122 prisoners still in Guantánamo should be made to stay right where they are, where they can do the West no harm.

On Tuesday, one of those detainees, Mohamedou Ould Slahi, who was sent to Guantánamo in 2002 and remains there to this day, is poised to offer a powerful rejoinder. Three years into his detention - years during which he was isolated, tortured, beaten, sexually abused and humiliated - Slahi wrote a 466-page, 122,000-word account of what had happened to him up to that point.

His manuscript was immediately classified, and it took years of litigation and negotiation by Slahi's pro bono lawyers to force the military to declassify a redacted version. Even with the redactions, "Guantánamo Diary" is an extraordinary document - "A vision of hell, beyond Orwell, beyond Kafka," as John le Carré aptly describes it in a back cover blurb - that every American should read.

A native of Mauritania, Slahi, 44,

is fluent in several languages - he learned English while in Guantánamo - and lived in Canada and Germany as well as the Muslim world. He came under suspicion because an al-Qaida member, who had been based in Montreal - where Slahi had also lived - was arrested and charged with plotting to bomb the Los Angeles International Airport in 1999. Slahi was questioned about this plot several times, but he was always released. After 9/11, Slahi was detained again for questioning. That time, he was turned over to the U.S. authorities, in whose captivity he has been ever since.

What was he accused of? Slahi asked this question of his captors often and was never given a straight answer. This, of course, is part of the problem with Guantánamo, a prison where being formally charged with a crime is a luxury, not a requirement. His efforts to tell the truth - that he had no involvement in any acts of terrorism - only angered his interrogators. "Looks like a dog, walks like a dog, smells like a dog, barks like a dog, must be a dog," one interrogator used to say. That was the best his captors could do to explain why he was there. Yet the military was so sure he was a key al-Qaida player that he was subjected to "special interrogation" techniques that had been signed off by the secretary of defense, Donald Rumsfeld, himself.

"Special interrogation techniques," of course, is a euphemism for torture. The sections of the book that describe his torture make for harrowing reading. Slahi was so sleep-deprived that he eventually started to hallucinate. Chained to the ground, he was forced to "stand" in positions that were extremely painful. Interrogators went at him in shifts - 24 hours a day. Sometimes during interrogations, female interrogators rubbed their breasts over his body and fondled him. It is hard to read about his tor-

ture without feeling a sense of shame.

Does Slahi crack? Of course: To get the torture to stop, he finally lied, telling his interrogators what he thought they wanted to hear, just as torture victims have done since the Inquisition. "Torture doesn't guarantee that the detainee cooperates," writes Slahi. "In order to stop torture, the detainee has to please his assailant, even with untruthful, and sometime misleading (intelligence)." McCain, who was tortured in Vietnam, knows this; last month, he made a powerful speech in which he condemned America's use of torture, saying, "the use of torture compromises that which most distinguishes us from our enemies, our belief that all people, even captured enemies, possess basic human rights." That is also why it is so disheartening that McCain has allied himself with those who want to keep Guantánamo open.

In 2010, a federal district judge ruled in favor of Slahi's habeas corpus petition because the evidence against him was so thin. The government appealed, and the order remains in limbo.

I asked Nancy Hollander, one of Slahi's lawyers, to describe her client. "He is funny, smart, compassionate and thoughtful," she said. All of these qualities come through in his memoir, which is surprisingly without rancor. "I have only written what I experienced, what I saw, and what I learned firsthand," he writes toward the end of his book. "I have tried not to exaggerate, nor to understate. I have tried to be as fair as possible, to the U.S. government, to my brothers, and to myself." One of the wonders of the book is that he does come across as fair to all, even his torturers. But the quote that sticks with me most is something that one of his guards told him, something that could stand as a fitting epitaph for Guantánamo itself: "I know I can go to hell for what I did to you." □

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